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Labour switches to 'Tessa' system

# Blair scraps training levy on firms

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to ditch Labour's longstanding policy of imposing a compulsory training levy on employers and replace it with tax incentives to encourage firms to improve workers' skills.

He also intends to introduce "training Tessas" under which individuals would get tax relief on savings set aside expressly for recognised courses.

Mr Blair is anxious to remove any policy which smacks of a "tax on jobs" - a charge frequently levelled at Labour by the Government and repeated by John Major only last week. The compulsory training levy, much cherished by the Left, fell firmly into that category.

At the last election the party's manifesto said that all employers would be required to invest a minimum amount on training or pay a sum to a national pool. The sum was not split out, but previous papers suggested about 1.5 per cent of the payroll.

Now Mr Blair and his education and employment spokesman, David Blunkett, want to replace that idea with incentives for both employers and workers, and they will announce the new approach next month.

Under the new "skills revolution", everyone would have a legal right to a "learning entitlement" from the State and be able to open a "training Tessa". Contributions to the account would be subject to tax relief, so long as the money was used only for training courses. Employers would also get

tax relief for contributing to the account and other incentives - yet to be finalised - for providing in-house training or for sending staff on courses relevant to the job. One option would be to provide state subsidies for existing courses.

The proposed policy shift has been hotly debated within the party for the past year. Some senior party figures are reluctant to drop the plan and trade unionists will also be alarmed by the move. Mr Blunkett intends to assure them that if the new plan failed, a "modernised" compulsory levy would be introduced after three or four years.

The latest draft paper, details of which have been leaked to *The Times*, says: "In government we will take a period of time in which to test and measure the effectiveness of those incentives before we reconsider whether basic entitlement needs to be underpinned by further statutory provision." If national training targets were not reached, the policy would be reviewed again.

Labour's employment team has met employers' organisations, including the Confederation of British Industry, who have made clear that firms are ready to increase training, with a bit of extra help. "A levy is not necessary if the goodwill is there," one party source said.

The draft paper makes clear, however, that the political climate has to be changed to encourage better skills. "We will introduce a new culture of government which will set

training, learning and skills at the top of the political agenda," it says. "We believe the Government has the responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution and to play a role in making it happen."

Party sources managed to avoid the training levy because their payroll was too low, or they employed too few people. "The old levy system was ineffective. Employers just spent their time trying to get round it," a source said. He also argued that the labour market had changed significantly in recent years with many more small and medium-sized companies, so policy needed to be adapted.

The new policy has been drawn up by Stephen Byers, recently appointed to the shadow education and employment team from the white office. Mr Byers, a high-flyer from the 1992 intake, has produced a number of drafts of his report over the past six weeks. The Treasury team are now looking at the best way of providing fiscal incentives for employers, without added costs to the Exchequer.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has made clear that any start-up costs will have to be found by targeting existing resources more effectively. One option is to drop some of the existing training schemes which have not been effective. The final report, which will go to the party's economic commission in the middle of next month, will be published towards the end of March.



The Princess arrives at a Lahore restaurant with Jemima Imran Khan last night

## Controversy welcomes Princess

By Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales arrived in Pakistan yesterday on a private visit that is already the subject of wild political debate.

Dressed in a pink version of the traditional national costume of *shalwar kameez* - loose-fitting trousers and long shirt - the Princess landed in Lahore in a private jet owned by Sir James Goldsmith, the financier whose daughter Jemima is married to Imran Khan, the former Pakistani cricket captain. She told local reporters that the sole purpose of her trip was to help raise funds for Imran's cancer hospital.

But controversy greeted her, with local newspapers pointing out that Imran had declared himself a political opponent of Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister.

"Princess Diana's sojourn is bound to be seen out of the context of the cancer hospital and read in line with Imran Khan's political ambition," the local English-language daily, *The News*, claimed. The Princess told one newspaper: "I work for social welfare and my visit is only for this purpose." Buckingham Palace distanced itself from the visit, saying it was entirely private.

# Sea Empress pulled to safety as oil slick spreads

By John Young and Andrew Pierce

SALVAGE experts freed the stricken oil tanker *Sea Empress* from the rocks at Milford Haven last night and towed her to a safer anchorage after a six-day emergency that had threatened to become Britain's worst environmental catastrophe.

A flotilla of 12 tugs fanning round the vessel managed to haul her away from St Ann's Head, Pembrokeshire, where she had spewed 65,000 tonnes of oil into the sea.

Milford Haven coastguards said the vessel was moving slowly after a rescue operation fraught with difficulty and recrimination. "So far, so good. It looks like a successful operation to get her off," a spokesman said. "We are delighted the first stage to free the vessel from the rocks, has been successful."

The tugs, with their 750 tonnes of pulling power, got to work in driving rain but calm sea conditions ready for the attempt to float the tanker at high tide and tow her to a disused jetty at Milford Haven, where what remains of her cargo will be offloaded on to a smaller tanker. Booms were in place there to prevent further spillage from the *Sea Empress's* ruptured tanks once she had docked.

Two French and two Dutch vessels meanwhile joined British ships fitted with oil dispersal equipment trying to break up the giant slick and about 140 tonnes of chemicals were sprayed from aircraft. The biggest slick is about 12 miles long, involving up to 10,000 tonnes of oil, while the smaller slicks were being tackled along a 25-mile front off Milford Haven and halfway across Carmarthen Bay.

The coastguards praised the amazing bravery of the salvagers and said that the Dutch in particular had risked life and limb to save the *Sea Empress* and prevent disaster.

By the time the tanker was refloated, the oil was threatening catastrophe for the wildlife and bird reserves on the islands of Skomer and Skokholm near by. The National Trust also said that it was facing a serious threat to its beaches on the Gower Peninsula. More oil was expected to pollute a huge area of mud flats and salt marsh, the home of 12,000 wildfowl and 30,000 waders. Peter Mitchell, the trust's regional director, said: "Whole communities are under threat."

Conservationists, wildlife experts and the Labour Party accused the Government of ignoring a series of disaster warnings. And Lord Donaldson of Lynton expressed regret that it had failed to act on his recommendation after the Braer spillage of 1993 that extra salvage tugs, capable of handling emergencies, should be provided for Wales.

Graham Allen, the Shadow Transport Minister, accused the Government of turning an accident into a disaster and highlighted the absence of suitably powered salvage tugs in the region which could have moved the *Sea Empress* early on. As helicopters flew in equipment to increase the ship's buoyancy to maximum levels, Mr Allen said: "This action should have begun on Friday and vessels could have been summoned from other European countries."

But Lord Goschen, the Shipping Minister, insisted that every piece of salvage equipment had been made available, adding that it was not financially practical to have such equipment standing by at every major oil terminal.

Stricken tanker, pages 6 & 7  
Nigel Hawkes, page 18

## Hopes rising for bank rates cut

Hopes of a cut in interest rates next month rose yesterday after figures were released showing a 0.6 per cent decline in retail sales in January, although the annual trend is still up. The minutes of January's meeting between the Government and the Bank of England showed the Bank was opposed only to the timing of last month's cut. Page 23

## EU seeks to drop national veto

The European Commission put itself on collision course with Britain yesterday by giving preliminary approval to proposals demanding the end to the national veto in almost all areas of EU business. It argues that majority voting is the only way to avoid paralysis of the union. Page 4

The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

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# 'Child killers' blow to Howard

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent and Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Home Secretary will be forced to hand over his powers to detain child killers indefinitely after the Government was unanimously condemned by the European Court of Human Rights yesterday.

The decision will mean that the two boys who killed the toddler James Bulger could be released after serving their 15-year minimum sentence. To hold young killers without any scrutiny by the courts was a violation of human rights, the judges at Strasbourg said.

Senior Conservatives last night renewed calls for Britain to pull out of the European Convention on Human Rights after the rebuff for Michael Howard. But the Home Secretary is expected to resist the calls led by Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the Home Affairs Committee, for the incorporation of the convention into British law. Sir Ivan said: "I think people are getting a little fed up with being told what to do by foreign courts. The issue is whether the Home Secretary has the right to decide what part of the additional sentence should be served in order to protect the public."

The European Court judgment also re-opens the debate about the Home Secretary's powers to decide on the release of murderers generally, adults as well as children, and to fix their sentences.

The court, in a case brought by two men now in their 30s, who have been detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure for murder in their teens, said that their date of release should not be decided by the Home Secretary.

Instead of the indefinite detention at Her Majesty's Pleasure - a system brought in nearly a century ago - the

judges said there should be an independent court-like body where those held can make representations.

At the same time, yesterday's ruling prompted a fresh row over the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, with calls from MPs in all parties for the Government to put an end to such rulings by enshrining the human rights convention into British law.

Yesterday the European Court found that Abed Hussain, from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire and Prem Singh, from the Bradford area, had their rights violated in that they were unable to have the lawfulness of their detention reviewed by a court. They were awarded £19,000 and £13,000 respectively in compensation for legal costs and expenses.

There are a total of 235 juveniles held at Her Majesty's Pleasure. Three are in



local authority secure accommodation, 49 are in young offender institutions (for those over 17) and 189 are in the adult prison system. Last Continued on page 2, col 1  
Bruce Anderson, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

## Dole fights 'for soul of the party'

By Our Foreign Staff

ROBERT DOLE, beaten into second place by Pat Buchanan in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, said it was now a race between the mainstream and the extreme fringes of the Republican party.

But Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor who finished third, demanded that Mr Dole quit the presidential race so that mainstream Republicans could unite behind him and defeat Mr Buchanan's protectionist and isolationist populism.

Mr Dole ignored the call and claimed he was now in a battle with Mr Buchanan for "the soul of the party."

Party in shock, page 12  
William Rees-Mogg, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

# Family bans IRA from London bus bomber's funeral

By Nicholas Watt

THE family of Ed O'Brien, the IRA terrorist who blew himself up in the Aldwych bus bombing, yesterday condemned the IRA and extended their sympathy to the victims of the attack.

Miley and Margo O'Brien, from the Co Wexford market town of Gorey, said they did not know their son was an IRA member and told the terrorists to keep away from his funeral.

Their comments came as the Irish Army was called in to bolster security patrols around Dublin after the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. Roving armed checkpoints have been introduced around the Irish capital amid fears that loyalists will target Dublin if they end their own ceasefire in response to the renewed IRA bombing.

O'Brien's parents expressed shock at the IRA bombing in a statement read out by Michael Cullen, their solicitor. He said: "The O'Brien family wish to express their deep-felt sorrow for those injured and the families of those injured in the explosion on Sunday."

Mr Cullen added that the family had no connection with paramilitaries and that Ed O'Brien had not been involved with the IRA when he lived in Gorey.

"The O'Brien family unreservedly condemn all paramilitary organisations and wish to have nothing to do with such organisations. They do not want any paramilitary involvement in the funeral of their son."

The IRA last night confirmed that O'Brien was a member. The admission was made in a statement telephoned to RTE, the Irish Republic's broadcasting network.

Father Walter Forde, the local curate, who knows the O'Brien family, said: "The news has been greeted with sadness and great surprise. There were very strongly expressed feelings in

Gorey of revulsion for the IRA godfathers who recruit impressionable young people into violent activity."

His comments came as John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, launched a stinging attack on the IRA. He told the Dail: "Concern has to remain about the fact that apparently through the ceasefire the IRA's military structures were maintained fully in operational order, punishment beatings were undertaken and the entire organisation was kept on a military footing."

Bomber's hometown, page 3  
Letters, page 19



instante

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# Evans above! What strong views on teaching standards



Evans, refreshing

"GET stuffed" may not be the sort of expression you expect to hear MPs bandying about in the Chamber, but then David Evans is not the sort of man you expect to see as an MP. The language occurred, of course, during Education Questions. Mr Evans was speaking for himself yesterday, though he often claims to voice his wife Janice's thoughts. He was concerned about standards of teaching in schools.

Opinions are divided about David J. Evans (C. Welwyn, Hatfield). Some think him a ludicrous bundle of noisy Cockney buffoonery. Others

disagree, defending him as a refreshing change from the manicured mediocrity of his parliamentary colleagues. Your sketchwriter's view is that Mr Evans is a ludicrous bundle of noisy Cockney buffoonery and a refreshing change. His daughter, a singer, has just brought out a CD, *Amanda Evans Alone*, which is by all accounts excellent, showing a thoughtful, soulful talent. Inherited from Janice.

*David Evans Alone* was different. His Question yesterday to Education ministers was listed 14th: MPs barely reached it before time was up. Evans had the first 55 min-



POLITICAL SKETCH

utes preparing himself for the moment, bouncing gently, then with increasing violence, on his seat, his face turning slowly from his usual pale pink, through mid-pink to hot pink. As Question 13 closed and his moment neared, Evans's features reached the shade you might expect to see on an exceptionally ardent baboon's bottom. "David Evans!" called Madam Speaker. To say that

Mr Evans "stood up" would be to mislead. He rises as though from an unseen bouncy castle beneath. He defies gravity, a defiance the more audacious when you note his size. Mr Evans wanted to know what plans the Secretary of State had to sack bad schoolteachers. "Most teachers," he declared, "are absolutely excellent." From Evans this was shockingly conciliatory, and

we waited for the punch. "BUT," yelled the MP, "a recent survey..."

This pronunciation of survey reminds us of the (apparently true) story about another Cockney, the late Lord Bottomley, who as a Labour MP was sent to Southern Rhodesia by the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, to consult, the Matabele tribal chiefs. All assembled in traditional dress, in a huge tent in the African bush, to hear him. Bottomley was to open his remarks with "we are gathered here today..." "We are gathered here," he

declared, beaming, "to die". The chiefs assumed an ambush and rushed screaming from the tent.

...but back to Mr Evans, who now quoted a survey alleging there were "fifteen thousand bad teachers", (then, hastily) "employed by the Labour Party". It was "loony Left councils" who hired these teachers, he added. But "Arriet Arman sent 'er son to a grammar school": proof that what "that lot over there" (Labour) were saying to the voters was... (he paused for breath, his face now puce) "Get stuffed!" Miss Boothroyd's tremor

registered 4 on the Richter scale. Evans subsided suddenly, before she could fell him. You could almost say he ducked.

By chance, the next question from his colleague, John Butcher (C. Coventry SW), was about the Better English Campaign. With implied horror Butcher quoted a BBC sports commentator: "The boy done great." Catching the phrase, Evans looked chuffed.

James Paine, a minister, thought good English was the key. "Nobody," he cooed, "is beyond redemption". "Nobody?"

## Ruling by European Court of Human Rights prompts challenge to Michael Howard

# Killers celebrate success after lengthy campaign

By ADRIAN LEE

THE two men at the centre of yesterday's rulings by the European Court of Human Rights were convicted of murder in the 1970s, when they were teenagers. Abid Hussain and Prem Singh heard of the rulings at their prisons and later told legal representatives of their delight at the victory after years of campaigning.

Hussain, 33, who was convicted in 1978 of murdering his 23-month-old brother Mushtaq, is at Lindholme prison, South Yorkshire. During his trial at Leeds Crown Court he was described by the judge as "cruel, unfeeling and a dangerous person".

The jury was told that

Hussain was caring for his brother while their mother was ill. The child was admitted to hospital with brain injuries, consistent with those suffered by a punch-drunk boxer whose head had been subjected to years of violent blows. The child died despite surgery.

Hussain, who lived in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, was said to have told his father: "I hit him. I lost my temper. I kicked him as well." Hussain denied making the statement but was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Hussain's family have supported both his campaign in the European court and a fight to clear his name. He was

represented by the pressure group Justice. Kate Akester, the organisation's legal officer, spoke to him yesterday. She said: "All he knows is what he has heard on the radio but he is very pleased. He will be considered for a parole board later this year."

"He is still very much in touch with his father, mother and brothers and sisters and they are supporting him. But he is pretty adamant they don't want to get involved in talking about the ruling."

Hussain had begun studying engineering on a day release course in Sheffield. If he is freed he plans to resume his studies.

Singh, 38, from Bradford, is being held at Wakefield prison

in West Yorkshire. He was convicted of the murder in 1972 of Edith Booth, a 72-year-old disabled spinster, Miss Booth, known as the rose lady because of her immaculate garden, was sexually assaulted and stabbed before her body was dragged into a coal cellar.

The murder was one of Bradford's most notorious crimes. At one stage 100 police officers were involved in the hunt for the killer of Miss Booth, who organised sing-songs at her local Methodist hall.

Leeds Crown Court was told that Singh, a former next door neighbour, had slipped away from a school cross-country run to carry out the killing. The move was robbery and Singh was later seen with a radio believed to have belonged to the victim.

He, too, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, although he was released on licence in 1990. He was recalled in 1991 following his arrest on charges of fraud and threatening behaviour. Although the charges were dropped, the parole board at first refused to recommend his further release. When it did so in 1994 the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, rejected the recommendation. His decision was later criticised at the High Court by Lord Justice Pill, who said the reasoning was "well below the standard which an applicant is entitled to expect".

Rodney King, Singh's solicitor, said yesterday that his client was "thrilled" by the judgment. "It is a major success for him. He is due to be released on March 18 but he saw this as a case of carrying the flag for others."

The Prison Service refused to allow either man to give interviews yesterday.



Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, both in secure units in northern England.



# Lawyers of Bulger pair contest 15-year jail term

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is to be challenged over his decision to set a 15-year minimum jail term for the child murderers of James Bulger. Lawyers for Jon Venables and Robert Thompson are planning to bring High Court proceedings in April against the Home Secretary.

They will contest Mr Howard's decision to increase the term to be served by the two boys for "deterrence and retribution" to 15 years. Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, recommended a minimum eight years. Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, increased that to ten years.

Yesterday's ruling in Strasbourg, in which the nine judges of the European Court said it was a violation of human rights to hold young killers without any scrutiny by the courts, does not overturn the 15-year minimum term imposed by Mr Howard. But if he loses the challenge on the



James Bulger, abducted and killed at age of two

tariff to be heard later this year, Venables and Thompson, now aged 12, could be released early.

Denise Bulger, mother of James, who was two at the time of his death, yesterday demanded that the jailed boys remain in custody for the rest of their lives. "Thompson and Venables took a life and they

should do life themselves," she said. Mrs Bulger added: "I don't think it is right that the European courts should interfere in British justice."

But Ralph Bulger, father of James, had no comment on the matter. Rex Makin, his solicitor said: "In the long run it will be an advantage to have this matter resolved once and for all so the grieved and bereaved should not be subject to constant reactivation."

Venables and Thompson were ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure at Preston Crown Court in November 1993. They had murdered James Bulger after taking him from a shopping centre in Merseyside.

The two boys are serving their sentences at secure units in the North of England that are part of a network of facilities for violent, disturbed and dangerous youngsters. The boys will remain at the units until at least the age of 18 when they will transfer to a young offenders' institution and at 21 into a prison.

# Catholic converts highest for 20 years

The number of adult converts to Roman Catholicism has reached the highest figure for more than 20 years, it was disclosed yesterday. As thousands of people prepare to be received into the Catholic church in traditional ceremonies this Sunday, the first in Lent, figures just released show that more than 6,000 people converted last year, an increase of more than 1,000 on the year before. Monsignor Kieran Conry, director of the Catholic Media Office, said: "It is encouraging, especially after reports of an apparent fall in mass attendance. The indications are that last year's increase will continue."

## Player jailed

A rugby forward who punched a rival, breaking his jaw in three places, was jailed for nine months at Kingston Crown Court, southwest London. Simon Devereux, 27, a 16st flanker for Gloucester's second team, was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to the 15st Rosslyn Park captain, Jamie Cowie, 23.

## Prisons record

The number of prisoners in jails in England and Wales reached a record of 53,040 yesterday. The prison population has risen from 46,606 since the end of 1992 and is expected to increase further 5,000 during the next four years. The Penal Affairs Consortium attacked the rise at a time when prisons were being told to make cuts.

## Branson deflates

Richard Branson postponed his bid to fly round the world by balloon yesterday, vowing to return to his Morocco launch site in October for another attempt. The Virgin tycoon has been ready to take off from Marrakesh since mid-January but the flight has been frustrated by ground winds and the country's heaviest rain since 1917.

## Saved by the net

A Scottish minister who slumped unconscious while on the Internet was rescued by a user in Virginia, USA. Who spotted his erratic keystrokes. Vicky White, a nurse, rang a co-ordinator in Boston, Massachusetts, who alerted Tyneside police. Within four minutes an ambulance was at the Rev Ken Walker's home in Arbroath.

## Flight abandoned

British aviators have abandoned their attempt to fly to South Africa in a 60-year-old Tiger Moth biplane known as Skippy. David Bidcliffe and Tony Richards had been delayed by repeated engine failures in southern Italy, which meant that air clearances negotiated for flying through Africa were out of date.

## Frank Warren

Our report (February 14) about the seven-year directorship ban on Frank Warren referred to a "gangland" shooting incident in which he was the victim. We accept that this was not an instance of gangsterism, in which he has never been involved, and that he was in fact shot by an unidentified assailant. We also accept that Mr Warren rejected the allegation made in court that he had traded while insolvent. We apologise for these errors.

## A drunken man who hijacked a bus (report, February 20) was not, as an agency report inaccurately stated, a medical student at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

# Pressure grows for Bill of Rights

By FRANCES GIBBS LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government faces mounting cross-party pressure to avoid further embarrassing rulings by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians voiced their support yesterday for such a move, which already has strong backing among senior judges.

Britain and Ireland are now the only two countries out of the 28 Council of Europe members that have not incorporated the European convention into domestic law or produced a written Bill of Rights.

It is one reason why Britain trails only Italy and Turkey for the numbers of cases brought over alleged human rights abuses. Yesterday Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, the Conservative chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "I think people are getting a little fed up at being told what to do by foreign courts." He told BBC Radio 4's

Britain has been in the dock at the European Court of Human Rights over several allegations. Rulings include: May 1985: three women, from Malawi, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, successfully challenge immigration laws denying their husbands automatic entry to Britain.

April 1988: murderer Jimmy Boyle won a claim that correspondence was unlawfully interfered with in prison. July 1989: the extradition of Jens Soering, a West German, to the US on two murder charges was blocked because he could face years on death row.

October 1990: three sex offenders won a ruling forcing a review of the way life-sentence prisoners are released on licence and then recalled.

February 1995: relatives of three IRA terrorists killed in Gibraltar won ruling condemning the shooting.

Today programme: "Maybe we should incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law so British courts should decide these issues rather than foreign courts." Another Tory MP, Patrick Nicholson, who chairs the Conservative backbench legal committee, said: "This really is the last straw. It's yet another example of countries, many of whom have had a deplorable

record on human rights, presuming to lecture our Home Secretary and our courts."

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said: "This decision is a clear signal for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. It makes it absolutely clear that the only way to avoid British law being challenged as a result of decisions taken in a court in

Strasbourg is to give British courts the powers of the courts in Strasbourg."

The Government has always resisted pressure to enshrine the convention into British law, but the case has never been as widely supported as now after a series of rulings against Britain.

If the convention were made part of domestic law, then alleged abuses of human rights would be decided in British courts. It would mean people having a much quicker remedy than the five-year trail to Strasbourg. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, has already pledged to implement the reform.

The Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative Party recently urged Britain to pull out of the European Convention altogether, but the Government agreed last month to sign up for a further five years. This was its last chance to pull out. Britain has already agreed a new protocol on the merging of the Commission and Court into a full-time body to which it would be permanently committed.

# HIV foreigners win housing battle

By IAN MURRAY

THE Government's efforts to stop "benefit tourism" were set back yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that a council must house two unemployed men with HIV from Spain and Italy.

Even though the two have no right of residence in Britain, the court decided that Westminster Council acted unlawfully when it refused to find accommodation for them. The landmark ruling overturns a High Court judgment last October, which said that Westminster did not have to house them because, under European Union law, they had lost their right to live in Britain by failing to look for work.

In their unanimous ruling, the three appeal judges said the two had entered Britain lawfully, exercising their right to

freedom of movement under the Treaty of Rome. They were not in breach of immigration laws and were therefore entitled to be housed by the local authority.

Westminster was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords and is considering whether to do so. Ayer Kamal, representing the council, said the decision meant that housing authorities had to provide accommodation to all EU nationals, even if they did not have the right of residence.

The appeal judgment is unlikely to stand for long, however, because new legislation, expected to come into force this autumn, will stop EU nationals moving to Britain to work unless they prove they have found somewhere to live.

Euro-sceptic Tories condemned the decision. Julian Brazier, MP for Corn-

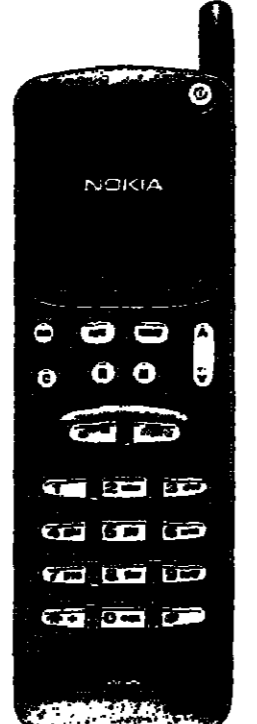
bury, said: "This is one more example of Euro-legislation and Euro-practices creeping into British courts."

The men who brought the legally aided test case, Gaudenzio Castelli, 36, and Jose Tristan-Garcia, 33, both had jobs after arriving in Britain but gave up working when they became ill.

The judgment was welcomed by the Terence Higgins Trust, the HIV and AIDS charity that supported the two. Nick Partridge, the chief executive, said: "European legislation now encourages people from other EU countries to come to the UK to work and contribute to the economy. This case demonstrates that if they become too ill to work then they should still be entitled to the protection that others enjoy in such tragic circumstances."

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People in Gorey couldn't care less about republicanism, especially with a few pints inside them'

# Town the Troubles forgot shocked by the bomber it bred

FROM NICHOLAS WATT IN GOREY, CO WEXFORD

THE small market town of Gorey, which lies along the picturesque east coast of Ireland, is the most unlikely place to have produced an IRA bomber.

Colourful old shops line the wide main street like thousands of other similar towns in the Republic. The border with Northern Ireland is more than 100 miles away, and to locals the Troubles disappeared when Ireland was divided in 1921.

Shopkeepers and publicans yesterday greeted with disbelief the news that Ed O'Brien, a fresh-faced local boy who was known for his athletic prowess, had given his life for a cause which is regarded with disdain in Gorey. Locals described his parents, Miley and Margo, as upstanding members of the community who were devoted to their family. Mrs O'Brien, whose other children, Gary and Lorraine, still live at home, attends Mass every day and works for local charities.

Father Walter Forde, the local priest, remembered O'Brien as an altar boy. He spoke for the community when he said: "There was never any indication that Ed



Ed O'Brien, aged 12, in school football kit

had any involvement with violence or terrorist activity. There are very strongly expressed feelings of revulsion for the IRA godfathers who recruit impressionable young people into violent activity which ends as tragically as it has done for Ed and for the people who were injured in the various recent bombings.

Fr Forde, who is best known in Ireland for his tireless defence of the local bishop, who was recently treated in America for alcohol abuse, described O'Brien as "wholesome". He said: "He was very independent, tough, depend-

able and open. He was the last person you would expect to be involved in activity like this."

Locals echoed his comments when they said they were trying to learn how someone from Gorey could have felt so strongly about the republican cause. They could understand how someone from West Belfast or South Armagh might get sucked into the IRA, but not how someone would join from such an innocuous town.

Gorey made its most notable contribution to republicanism nearly 200 years ago when the United Irishmen stormed Gorey in an effort to reach the coast road to Dublin. The town's only visible connection to republicanism today is a granite monument outside the Garda station which commemorates the founding in 1792 of the first society in Wexford of the United Irishmen. It says their aim was "to unite all the people of Ireland".

A shop owner, who asked to remain anonymous, said that people tried to cut the Troubles from their minds. She said: "There is no republican movement in Gorey. People don't care less once they have got a few pints inside them. In my mind, you, the younger generation have more spirit."



The main street of Gorey, O'Brien's home town in Wexford. Local people say the Troubles disappeared when Ireland was divided in 1921

# Lilywhites: the rebels without an obvious cause

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ED O'BRIEN was the perfect example of the new breed of IRA active service volunteers. Nicknamed the "Lilywhites" because they appear to be above suspicion, they are uncovered only by capture or death.

When O'Brien landed at Heathrow for Holyhead there was nothing to arouse a flicker of curiosity among watching Special Branch officers. He had no criminal record, no obvious links to the republican movement and

came from a respectable family in an Irish town far from the hearland of nationalist politics. O'Brien seemed just another Irish worker among thousands looking for a job.

He may have been recruited in Britain while moving in Irish circles but he is more likely to have been drawn into the IRA in Ireland where his background and suitability could be properly assessed. O'Brien would certainly have been trained there. Police believe his death indicates he was still a novice who made a fatal mistake. Certainly he is not the first

Lilywhite to make that error. In 1991 Patricia Black, 38, and Frankie Ryan, 25, blew themselves up trying to bomb the band of the Blues and Royals at a concert in St Albans, Hertfordshire. Black had no IRA links and Ryan lived in Harlow, Essex, until he was 19.

Others are now in prison. In 1993 Jimmy Canning, from Ulster, was jailed as an IRA quartermaster in London handling weapons and explosives for active service units. He had no criminal record. Patrick Kelly, 41, an Irish lorry driver with a history of petty crime, was convicted in 1994 for trying

to deliver a lorry bomb in the centre of London. Later the same year Jan Taylor, 50, and Patrick Hayes, 41, were jailed for life as two of the most dangerous IRA men on the mainland. Both were English and former members of an extreme left-wing group but had never been linked to terrorism.

Each terrorist was chosen as part of a policy initiated by the IRA to combat highly successful infiltration by the security forces. Recruits must have no history linked to the IRA and choose their own targets according to guidelines.

# Couple refuse to go as house teeters on cliff

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

GEORGE SCOTT and his wife Jean awoke yesterday to find the North Sea just six inches from their back door, but the couple are refusing to move. Spring tides, driven by gale-force winds, have attacked the two-bedroom bungalow in Happisburgh, on the exposed Norfolk coast, leaving it teetering on a 25ft cliff.

Mr Scott, a 71-year-old former bus driver, and his wife, 56, have been warned by police and council officials that it may topple over into the sea at any minute, but they can't bear to leave their "dream" retirement home.

On Sunday, waves driven by unusually high tides and 55mph winds broke through the newly repaired sea defences, tearing off the remaining 7ft of the back garden.

A gaping 6ft hole has now opened up under the concrete foundations of the two-bedroom seaside home, making its collapse inevitable and alarming police and council officials in nearby North Walsham. After a neighbouring chalet toppled into the sea three days ago the police asked the couple to sign a disclaimer against their death or injury and North Norfolk Council offered them an emergency home. But Mr and Mrs Scott are determined to remain in



The Scotts determined to enjoy their sea view

the doomed building locals call "Scotts Folly" for as long as possible.

Mrs Scott said: "People might think we are stupid to be staying here, but this is our dream retirement home and we do not want to leave. Despite the risk of the sea washing us away, it is still a lovely place to live. The local people are wonderful and we have spectacular sea views."

Mr Scott, who bought the house for £15,000 in 1987, said: "I am very upset. It is getting a bit much for us now but we are determined to carry on." When the house was built in 1933 its back garden was 180ft long.

# Cocker demands Jackson apology

BY EMMA WILKINS

JARVIS COCKER, singer with the pop group Pulp who was arrested after claims that he assaulted children during the Brit awards, demanded an apology yesterday from Michael Jackson.

Cocker, 32, issued a statement to retract a statement which condemned his antics and alleged that children were attacked in the incident. Although admitting that he disrupted Mr Jackson's performance at Monday night's ceremony, Cocker denies that he attacked any children.

"Jarvis issued an apology and a retraction," a spokesman for Cocker said yesterday. "He has made it clear that he didn't attack any children. If children were inadvertently pushed, it was not by Jarvis. We want an apology first from Jackson, but I suppose the next step would be to consider libel proceedings."

Michael Jackson's statement, which described the incident as disgusting and cowardly, was issued on his behalf by Sony Music. A spokesman for the singer declined comment on yesterday's demand. Cocker was arrested after the alleged assaults and bailed until next month.

The latest exchange between the two singers came as the solicitor acting for five children from the Sylvia Young Theatre School, who were performing with Jackson, said that they were suffering from emotional and physical damage. Michael Shelton said: "The children were scared witless. They were all absolutely petrified." Sylvia Young, who runs her theatre school in Paddington, west London, said: "The children were left feeling very upset. Everything is now in the hands of the solicitor."



The two-bedroom house dubbed "Scotts Folly"

# Darts team takes flight after cakes are spiked with LSD

BY RICHARD DUCE

A DARTS match was abandoned as one team collapsed into laughter and hysteria after its pre-match buffet was spiked with hallucinogenic drugs. Most of the team from the Fortynine Club, Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, aged between 21 and 62, were taken to hospital after they were either reduced to tears or uncontrollable fits of giggling during an away match in nearby Llanharry on Tuesday night.

Three men were detained overnight because their heart rate was affected by the drug, believed to be LSD or "magic mushrooms", which was added to their Welsh cakes. De-

spite the ill-effects, the Fortynine club was winning 3-1 at the Fox and Hounds pub when the match had to be called off.

Desmis Morgan, 45, captain of the Caerphilly team, said: "My team just started going down like ninetins. One minute we were winning 3-1 and confident of victory, the next it all started to go wrong. It was just as if all of my team were dead drunk - it was really weird. They started laughing and giggling and some burst into tears. They were falling down, sitting on the floor and acting stupid."

Emma Cannon, 23, barmaid at the Fox and Hounds, said yesterday: "All the younger men were helpless with

laughter but the older guys burst out crying. Nobody knew what was going on. At first it was quite funny but some of the players became really ill so we called for an ambulance. In the end it took four ambulances to get them all to hospital. There were only four of the away team left at the end. Apparently they didn't eat the cakes because they were dying."

The ten men who were taken to hospital in Bridgend had all eaten at the Fortynine club before setting off for the match. South Wales Constabulary said yesterday a 39-year-old man, and a 19-year-old woman were being interviewed at Caerphilly police station.


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### Britain opposes Commission plan

# Europe urged to ditch national veto and end 'paralysis'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHIL WEBSTER

THE European Commission yesterday gave broad approval to a plan for revamping the Maastricht treaty by eliminating the national veto in almost all areas of EU business.

While shunning any leap to new structures, the Commission's blueprint for the imminent Maastricht review argues that majority voting rather than unanimity among member states is the only way to avoid paralysis as the Union incorporates new members.

Britain rejects any reduction in the veto, and reform to the decision-making procedures where it applies will be a main battle-ground at the Intergovernmental Conference, which opens in Turin on March 29 and will last more than a year.

The Commission, which is to approve a final draft of its plan next Wednesday, also

urges member states to adopt a multiple-speed approach which would prevent members blocking moves to integration as the Union enlarges. Britain is the main target of the measure, which is being backed by France, Germany, Italy and others.

More controversially, the draft, which will be "fine-tuned" before final approval by Jacques Santer, the Commission president, and his 19 colleagues, suggests that less vital aspects of the union's treaties could be subject to future change without the unanimous approval of members. The notion is certain to be resisted not just by Britain but also by France and other member states.

The Commission calls for a strengthened common foreign policy where national vetoes would only apply in matters of

vital interest and those involving military action. At present decisions in this area, managed between governments, are taken by so-called qualified majority. This falls in line with the wishes of Germany and the majority of member states.

Sources said there was disagreement among Commissioners yesterday over the wording of a call to "re-examine the role of the Western European Union in view of its integration into the Union". Britain and other states are opposed to incorporating the WEU, the European pillar of Nato, into the EU. France, however, wants it "subordinated" to the EU.

Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, surprised fellow Commissioners in his criticism of aspects of the draft which were noded through



Volker Rühle, the German Defence Minister, inspects a guard of honour yesterday before talks with Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary

by Sir Leon Brittan, the trade and Conservative Cabinet Minister. On the sensitive issue of justice and home affairs, the Commission backs the thinking of France and many other members who want it to take charge of the day-to-day running of home affairs, a field now handled entirely between governments. The proposal is fiercely resisted by Britain.

The exception would be civil and criminal justice, but the veto should be removed from the whole field, the Commission proposes.

The British Cabinet will next week put the final touches to a White Paper to be published next month, setting out its stance for the conference. The document, with which Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and John Major

hope to achieve a new consensus on Europe, will rule out hardline Euro-sceptic demands for a repatriation of powers from Brussels.

Mr Major last night faced fresh unrest among Tory Euro-sceptics after the Government rejected a call from an all-party group of MPs for a Commons debate on the terms for entry into a single currency. The dispute was

triggered by a letter from Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, to the Select Committee on European legislation.

The committee had called for a full-scale debate to clear up confusion over whether Britain would have to rejoin the ERM before embarking on the final stage of economic and monetary union.

In a recent report, the

committee said that the Prime Minister had given contradictory answers over whether the ERM hurdle, still applied after its effective break-up, and called for it to be debated.

Mr Newton agreed that the ERM test was of political importance but ruled that the matter should be debated in a standing committee, away from the floor of the House.

## British Library will finally open nine years late

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE troubled British Library will not be ready for a long-planned formal opening by the Queen next year. A damning report from the National Audit Office, due to be published in April, will conclude that poor management was responsible for a catalogue of avoidable technical disasters that have left the building behind schedule yet again.

The report will also warn that costs continue to spiral out of control and are likely to exceed £500 million, almost three times the original estimates. A Whitehall source said: "This is possibly the most critical report the NAO has ever produced."

Dr Brian Lang, the library's chief executive, said yesterday: "We are bracing ourselves for the report and it will have a bad effect on morale. There have been problems but the NAO report is about history. We are now very confident in the future of the building."

The library was originally due to open in 1989. It intends to announce a "firm timetable" next month, which will envisage taking over the building on the St Pancras site from the Department of National Heritage by early next year. The first readers should be using the facilities 12 months later, Dr Lang said. "The bad

period is in the past. We are now looking forward to a successful opening. There has been a sea-change in recent months."

He emphasised that opening the library to the public would be a "rolling programme", with some sections not fully open until 1999. He denied reports that have claimed that some parts of the library will not be fully operational until into the next century.

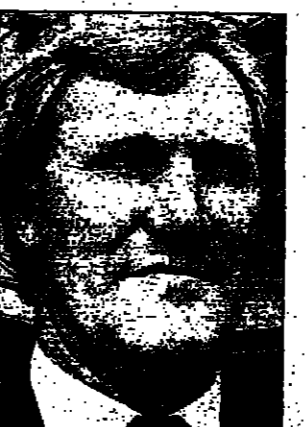
The highly critical NAO report has been the subject of much wrangling between the watchdog and Virginia Bowerley, Secretary of State for National Heritage. The department has asked Sir John Bourn, head of the NAO, to tone down some criticisms. But the NAO will severely criticise aspects of the financial management and report that many of the technical problems that have contributed to the delays and increased costs were easily avoidable.

The building has been blighted by a series of problems since it was first planned in the 1970s to replace the present British Museum site and its historic round reading room. In 1991, moveable shelves custom-designed for the library jammed and started throwing books to the floor.

In 1992 the air conditioning system was found to be faulty. Sections of the building flooded. In 1993, 5,000 defective sprinklers had to be replaced. In 1994, more than 2,000 miles of electric cabling was ripped out when it was discovered that faults had left it vulnerable to short-circuiting. Last year a ceiling was found to have been built too low and had to be demolished and replaced.

In November electricians and engineers walked out in a dispute over unpaid wages. A round of cuts last month reduced staff by up to 200.

Leading article, page 19



Lang mistakes are in the past

## Mackay presents Times law prizes

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FEARS about the Government's reforms of the legal profession, which were bitterly opposed by judges and the Bar five years ago, had proved unfounded, the Lord Chancellor said last night.

Announcing the winners of the 1995 Times Law Awards competition, sponsored by the chambers of Anthony Grabner, QC at Essex Court, Lord Mackay of Clashfern said the impact of the reforms had been overlooked. With the benefit of hindsight, the breaking of the Bar's monopoly on advocacy rights so that solicitor would be allowed into the higher courts had not had the disastrous effects predicted.


There had been a slow take-up by solicitors of these rights, Lord Mackay said. With the greater trend towards specialisation in the legal profession, it would be unlikely that the specialism of

advocacy would evaporate overnight as some suggested it might during the passage of the Courts and Legal Services Bill.

Lord Mackay was commenting on the entries received for the competition title *Advocacy - has it a future?* at a dinner held in the Old Hall, Lincoln Inn. First prize of £3,000 went to Remika Kukanesen, a law student at Nottingham University, second prize (£2,000) to James Nicholls, a mature student at the University of North London, and third (£1,000) to Christopher Daniels, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. The runners up, who each received £250, were Philip Daniels, Jasbir Dhillon and Daniel Raglan.

A full report of the awards will be published on Tuesday. Law Report, page 38

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# Film nonsense and insensibility almost stopped Austen epic

By DAIZA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE five most important studios in Hollywood turned down Emma Thompson's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* when it was offered to them in 1990, the film's producer revealed yesterday. Executives had not heard of Thompson or Austen.

Five years later, the movie that has attracted eight Oscar nominations, two Golden Globe awards and multi-million-dollar takings at the American box-office, is opening in Britain tomorrow. Its charity premiere, attended by the Prince of Wales, was held last night.

Lindsay Doran, the producer, had approached executives at Paramount, Universal, Warner, Disney and Twentieth Century Fox. "All said no," she recalled. "It was hard to keep going after so much rejection."

She was on the point of giving up when someone at Columbia TriStar casually ex-



Jane who? Hollywood hadn't heard of Austen

pressed interest in an adaptation of a Jane Austen book. The regimes at the other studios, she said, had changed since then.

One of the executives was gallant enough to admit his mistake.

"He said, 'It's the greatest regret of my life. I loved the movie. I'm sorry I didn't have

the foresight to do it.' She expects others 'to vote against it' on awards, explaining that in Hollywood, "that's what you do with a movie: you haven't seen the light on. You hope that it fails. You're a human being."

"It's hard in human nature to be gracious. Being gracious is very untypical in Hollywood — though Hollywood is only human nature under a magnifying glass. Everything satirised in Austen, you see in Hollywood. Fanny and John talk themselves out of giving the Dashwood girls any money, despite a deathbed promise; they talk themselves into being better people for not giving money. You see that every day of the week in Hollywood because so much money is at stake. They start out making an agreement to do something and have no intention of doing it. They feel justified in not doing it."

Her difficulties in getting the film off the ground were partly due to Thompson being an unknown quantity. "In



Emma Thompson with producer Lindsay Doran: eight Oscar nominations

1990, her name meant nothing." The reactions ranged from "Who's Emma Thompson?" to "Who's Jane Austen?"

Ms Doran added: "The irony was that if they had read Austen, they would ask, 'why make a movie out of what's considered Austen's worst book?' All she was seeking initially was someone to pay Ms Thompson to write the script. 'People were saying, 'if she writes it, isn't she going to want to be in it?'"

Ms Doran had dreamed of making a film of the novel for 25 years. She read it at the age of 22, while recuperating from a car crash in Britain.

As the daughter of a senior studio executive at Paramount working on films such as *Some Like It Hot*, she had lived and breathed films when she read anything, she was subconsciously looking for its cinematic qualities.

She said that, although *Emma* is a greater book, "the best movies have been made out of second-rate books —

great books have an intangible quality. You cannot get their greatness on film."

The film has taken \$25 million since it opened in December in America, although it has still not opened nationwide there. Its Oscar nominations for best screenplay, actress, supporting actress, film, director, cinematographer, dramatic score and costume are expected to increase the figure.

Review, page 31

## Eurostar crawls to Paris in 14 hours

By JONATHAN PEYNN

HUNDREDS of Eurostar passengers were trapped inside the Channel Tunnel for three hours during a nightmare trip to Paris, where they arrived nearly 11 hours late. They finally limped into the Gare du Nord at 4am yesterday, 14 hours after setting out from London, after transferring to a conventional train.

The packed train was the second Eurostar to get stuck in the tunnel during the blizzards that have swept the South East. It left Waterloo on Tuesday at 12.53pm loaded with passengers from other delayed services. Three miles into the tunnel it was halted by a technical hitch thought to be caused by the sudden change in temperature. Emergency batteries kept the lights on for about two hours before passengers were left with only the tunnel lights and no heating.

A spokesman for EPS, the Government-owned company that operates Eurostar, said passengers were being offered compensation. They said they were considering suing.

### SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Free 20-page guide to tax and financial planning

Tom Bower on Nick Leeson, in Weekend

Bruce Springsteen on *The Ghost of Tom Joad*, in the Magazine

PLUS Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the seven-day television and radio guide

## Viewers must pay £10 to see Tyson-Bruno

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND SRIKUMAR SEN

VIEWERS of cable and satellite television will have to pay £9.95 to watch next month's world-heavyweight fight between Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson, as part of an experiment to bring American-style pay-per-view TV to Britain.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, said it had chosen the eagerly awaited World Boxing Council fight, to be held in the early hours of March 17 in Las Vegas, to test its new pay-per-view system. If it is successful, the company plans to extend the practice to major cultural and sporting events.

David Elstein, programmes director at Sky, said: "We might be able to persuade European operators to join a major sold-out music event on pay-per-view in the UK."

The Bruno/Tyson match will be available to all of Sky's 4.7 million subscribers. They will be able to "order" the match in advance by telephone and the viewing fee would then be debited. Anyone purchasing it after midnight on Friday, March 15, will have to pay £14.95.

The move is likely to prove unpopular with BSkyB subscribers, who already have to pay at least £15.99 a month to

receive the Sky multi-channel package that includes three sports channels, Sky Sports and Sky Sports 2 and Sky Sports Gold. An opinion poll of 500 adults published yesterday by the media research company CIA MediaLab showed that 56 per cent of cable and satellite viewers would be unlikely to use pay-per-view television.

In order to circumvent legal challenges from Sky subscribers that they are being asked to pay out extra money for something they already paid for, BSkyB will screen the match on the same transmitter used by Sky Sports 2 after a channel switch.

Brown, the reigning WBC heavyweight champion, is receiving £4 million for the bout. But Frank Warren, his promoter, suggested that could be increased if the event was a success.

Mr Elstein said that BSkyB had attempted to keep the price down. Don King, Tyson's promoter, had initially demanded that the pay-per-view price be set at £20 to £25.

BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

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# Stricken supertanker: owner and insurer rule out mechanical and technical failure

## Navigation buoys may have been in the wrong place

By Andrew Pierce

NAVIGATION buoys at the mouth of Milford Haven port may have been in the wrong place on the night the supertanker *Sea Empress* was driven on to the rocks, it emerged yesterday.

The owners and insurers of the 147,000 tonne Norwegian-owned supertanker claim to have ruled out mechanical and technical failure. The claim about the navigation lights will be investigated by the Milford Haven port authority and the Department of Transport, which will conduct separate inquiries. Human error by the pilot or captain, in allowing the vessel to go off course perilously close to the shore, will also feature in the investigation.

On February 5 the tanker, which was built in 1993, was given a clean bill of health in its annual mechanical inspection by Det Norske Veritas, the Norwegian classification society.

Captain Eduard Bolgov, 59, head of the tanker's 28-strong Russian crew, had navigated the Welsh waterway dozens of times in the past. Speculation that language difficulties with the port authorities were a contributory factor is groundless - Mr Bolgov speaks fluent English and relays his instructions to his crew as they approach British ports in English and Russian.

John Arnold, the pilot who boarded the ship 15 miles before it hit a sandbank and the rocks, has worked in the port for more than ten years. He lives locally and has been instructed not to speak to the press.

One claim being examined last night was that the "leading lights", illuminated buoys that create a pathway into the harbour, were in the wrong place. High winds and strong currents may have dislodged them.

The supertanker, which was on its way to a Texaco refinery

Claims for loss and damage caused by the *Sea Empress* could reach £160 million, insurers estimate. The tanker is insured for £30 million, while claims for damage to local industries might be as high as £130 million if all of her 147,000 tonnes of light crude oil are washed ashore.

If the *Sea Empress* breaks up, the environmental damage is likely to be worse than the *Braer* disaster when almost 85,000 tonnes of oil were spilled.

In Milford Haven, moved into position to sail into the harbour just before 8pm on Thursday. Within 15 minutes of Mr Arnold stepping on board for the routine operation of guiding it into port it struck the rocks. A maritime emergency was declared and shipping was banned from a ten-mile radius.

Michael Thorp, of Skuld, the Norwegian insurance company that faces an \$84 million (£54 million) payout, said: "The tanker may have been too far to the coast when the pilot got on board. He must have felt uncomfortable when he got on to the bridge."

By 10pm the tanker had been refloated and crew and salvage engineers stayed on board. On Friday salvage operations were delayed for 24 hours because of force-eight gales. The absence of a large salvage tug was crucial in the ensuing failure to save the coastline.

The report by Lord Donaldson of Lynton into the *Braer* oil spillage in Shetland in January 1993 made clear that by the winter of 1994-95 there should be new, large salvage tugs serving the Western Approaches. Milford Haven was singled out as a high risk area in his report.

The Government, which accepted the first two Donaldson recommendations to put extra

tugs in Shetland and Dover has so far failed to implement the third: one serving Wales. The Transport Department said: "We accept his recommendation that there should be more tugs by this winter. We are looking at it."

On Saturday, as the winds intensified, the salvagers turned the tanker around so her bows faced into the growing storm. At 6.30pm two of the tugs lost their tow lines and tanker swung back round. Two other tugs clung on but the anchor chains on the tanker snapped.

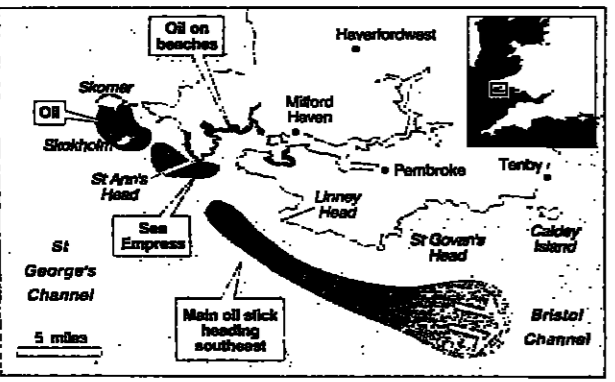
On Sunday salvage experts were landed by helicopter and the operation was reinforced by the arrival of a Chinese tug, *De Yue*, one of the most powerful in the world. The salvage crew were lifted off because of force-nine winds.

Simon Lyster, director-general of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "It has been a fiasco from start to finish. It has been under-resourced by the Government. There was not a proper salvage tug in the region."

Nigel Hawkes, page 18



Tugs surrounding the stricken *Sea Empress*, which remained stuck fast on rocks off St Ann's Head, near Milford Haven, yesterday



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Labour at boy scout

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# Stricken supertanker: 'Mr Goschen,' went the minister's ditty, 'has no notion of the ocean'

## Labour aims to torpedo 'boy scout' on the bridge

By Alice Thomson  
POLITICAL REPORTER

WHEN Viscount Goschen was made minister for shipping at the tender age of 28, he chanted an old family ditty, "Mr Goschen has no notion of the ocean". Two years later, facing calls for his resignation over the handling of the crippled supertanker *Sea Empress*, the ditty must seem more like a curse.

The youngest minister has found life in the Government extremely tough. Not only does he have to spend hours smashing champagne bottles on ships' hulls, he has also had to negotiate with the French over tougher safety measures for ferries and spend days touring countries such as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizia.

Friends say that every time the phone goes in the middle of the night, he is convinced another ferry must have capsized and he will have to rush to the scene of the disaster. He also has responsibility for aviation, and spends hours embroiled in arguments with residents over new runways.

To make matters worse, the 4th Viscount is very conscious that he comes from a long and distinguished line of cabinet politicians and seafarers. His father was a deputy chief whip



The Goschen crest: the Latin word *paxem* (peace) with anchors, a dove, a sailor and Royal Marine

in the Lords. The second Viscount was an MP, Governor of Madras and Viceroy and Acting Governor-General in India.

The first Viscount became Salisbury's Chancellor when Lord Randolph Churchill resigned in a huff in 1886. Someone suggested the name of Goschen, a financial expert and Liberal Unionist, and Salisbury said, "I had forgotten Goschen." He was First Lord of the Admiralty twice.

Giles John Harry Goschen went to Eton and then the Central London Polytechnic, where he graduated in business studies. His friends

thought he seemed more interested in saving the planet than plotting politics.

He went into the City as a stockbroker, but started studying African fauna. He and his future wife, Sally Horsfall, whom he met at a hunt ball, went out to Zambia to work for a conservation agency. But after dodging hippopotami and crocodiles, they decided to return to what they believed were safer waters.

Lord Goschen started using his House of Lords club regularly, always arriving by motorbike, and was soon rewarded. At the tender age of 26, before he had even made

his maiden speech, he was offered the position of Government whip.

The Department of the Environment didn't realise he was attached to them for weeks and Downing Street knew nothing about the Government's new recruit for months. But Lord Goschen has slowly made his way up the political ranks.

Advocates of reform of the House of Lords always point to him, and are horrified that such a young man could be sent to represent Britain's shipping interests around the world. But although Lord Goschen has an unfortunate flat delivery, he has a good grasp of detail and is an effective, boy scout for the Government.

Today he will be representing the Government in the Lords during the third reading of the Humber Bridge (Depts) Bill. Labour have promised to call for his head. Lord Goschen may be wishing he were back in Africa.

Graham Allen, Labour's transport spokesman, accused the Government of "gross misjudgment" over the supertanker, and of failing to implement a recommendation of the Donaldson report for a powerful tug to be maintained in the Western Approaches.



## Takeaway chef delivers salvation

By Andrew Pierce

ONE of the unlikely early heroes of the *Sea Empress* rescue operation was a chef in a Chinese takeaway restaurant. Paul Chung, 29, was halfway through cooking his speciality dish, Peking-style chicken, when a fireman burst into the Happy Garden restaurant at Hakin, Milford Haven, to ask for help.

Chinese crew were saying. Staff coordinating the rescue operation, who regularly buy takeaways from the restaurant half a mile from the docks, immediately thought of Paul.

Mr Chung, a Hong Kong-born bachelor who came to Britain 20 years ago, said: "A fireman rushed in and asked if I spoke good Chinese. I told him I could offer only Cantonese. They could not tell the difference so within minutes I was at the port offices speaking to the Chinese crew by radio. The coastguards told me what they wanted the crew to do and I

translated it into Cantonese. Fortunately there was at least one Cantonese speaker on board but it was difficult to make myself heard. The line was faint and crackling."

Mr Chung, a distinctive figure in the area, is now the talk of the town. "People have been congratulating me for helping keep the ship off the rocks. I keep saying: 'I have never taken such a strange order before in my restaurant.' My parents are bemused by it all. They cannot speak any English so I have to keep translating for them."

## Fishermen face indefinite ban

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

FISHING in the contaminated area of the *Sea Empress* oil spill may have to be halted indefinitely, fisheries officials said yesterday.

Lobsters, crabs, oysters, cockles, mussels and other fish caught in the rich grounds off southwest Wales fetch more than £7 million a year at first sale, providing jobs for about 1,000 people.

At an emergency meeting in Milford Haven on Tuesday night, nearly a hundred fishermen, traders and processors agreed to observe an immediate voluntary ban on fishing to prevent any risk of contaminated goods going on sale.

The ban will last initially for four days, covering an area that reaches six miles out to sea and all the way from the Gower peninsula in the east to St David's Head in the west, a distance of some 30 miles.

The meeting also agreed to take legal advice on seeking compensation from the owners of the *Sea Empress* for any damage to fish stocks. David Bray, a local crab and lobster

fisherman and secretary of the Welsh Coastal Inshore Fishermen's Association, said: "So much oil and chemical dispersant has now gone into the sea that we must be fearful about the long-term effect on our livelihood." He added: "Local buyers say continental importers are already putting out the word that they do not want any more Welsh shellfish for the time being."

Oysters, cockles and mussels taken from the Milford Haven estuary are being analysed at the Ministry of Agriculture's directorate of fisheries research in Essex. Dr Peter Mathiessen, of the directorate, said: "We still have to see what our analysis shows, but it is certainly possible that fishing in the area will have to be halted."

Crabs and lobsters off the coast are worth £1.5 million a year. Carmarthen Bay is prized for its £2.5 million-a-year cockle industry. Welsh exports now fetch £1.5 million because of new markets in South Korea and China.

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Debidin: his dogs made people's lives a misery

### Court tells man not to leave his 17 dogs

A MAN who owns 17 German shepherd dogs has been told that he must not leave them for more than an hour a day. A High Court judge also ruled yesterday that no more than five dogs could be left into the garden at any time.

The order was imposed on Andrew Debidin, a bankrupt businessman, by Mr Justice Bell, after Wokingham District Council told the court that Mr Debidin's neighbours were living in misery.

Mr Justice Bell ruled that the dogs had caused a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act. The council said Mr Debidin, of Three Mile Cross, Berkshire, was in breach of an undertaking made on December 19 last year to keep noise levels down.

However, Mr Justice Bell said he would not send Mr Debidin to prison because the breach of the ruling occurred on one day eight weeks ago. He said that a fine would also be inappropriate because Mr Debidin was bankrupt.

David Webber, an environmental health officer, said the dogs barking was "unacceptable and extremely intrusive". One neighbour said: "Our summer was ruined. We had to move out of our bedroom because the noise was so loud."

Mr Debidin told the court he had been keeping his dogs under control and had reduced them from 30 to 17 over the years. Reducing their numbers further was difficult because people only wanted puppies and his dogs were too old to find new homes.

## Car clamped in London side street marks start of campaign against licence dodgers

# First victim's luck runs out 6 months after his road tax

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT, AND OLIVER AUGUST

A BLUE Ford Fiesta entered the history books shortly before 11am yesterday when it became the first car in Britain to be clamped for displaying an out-of-date tax disc.

There was a sense of achievement among the team from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) as they applied the wheel clamp to the nine-year-old car near Wandsworth Bridge in south-west London. Its tax disc had run out last August.

Malcolm Mason, a DVLA tax enforcement officer, spotted the first potential victim of the crackdown on tax evasion parked in Hamble Street, a quiet residential road.

A quick telephone check against the DVLA database confirmed that no tax had been paid for six months. By keying in the details on a hand-held computer, Mr Mason alerted the DVLA clamping van, which was waiting discreetly round the corner to avoid alerting the car's owner.

The electronics worked without a hitch, except when Mr Mason's frozen fingers stabbed the wrong buttons on the computer keyboard. "It was so easy in training," he

muttered, as the computer printed out a ticket to stick on the car's windscreen.

Within minutes Darren Liddy, the clumper from Arcade Motors, the contractor working for the agency, had whipped out one of his DVLA-stamped immobilisers and attached it to the forlorn-looking Fiesta. The owner has to pay £68 to have it freed and faces having it towed away if the fee is not paid within 24 hours.

The only witnesses to the historic moment was a worried resident who popped his head briefly out into the freezing air to check the car was not his, and a passing pensioner, Len Matthews, 72, who wholeheartedly welcomed the initiative.

"About time too. I'm all for it," he said. "There are so many tax dodgers on the road, they deserve being done for it. Why should people like me who pay on time pay for them? If I missed paying by a day, knowing my luck, I would probably be one of the first to get clamped."

Haydn Madoc, the DVLA's project manager for the trial, anxiously shoed the clamping team away from the scene

as quickly as possible to avoid an embarrassing encounter with an irate owner.

Local residents claimed the car belonged to a commuter who took advantage of the free parking in the street before catching a bus to central London.

Robert Wickens, 40, said: "It must be one of the people who drive here and then leave the car because it's too expensive to park where they work. They take up all the space and the residents have nowhere to park. Soon we are getting a residents' parking scheme, but then you have to pay £60 a year to park on your own street."

Maria Ambert, 52, said: "I sometimes see a man in a suit getting in and out of the Fiesta, either early in the morning or in the evening. But he doesn't live around here. There are lots of people parking round here who work in the City. They deserve to get clamped."

The historic first completed, the team moved on to victim number two, a silver Renault 25 with no tax disc and no record of payment within the past six months.

Although only a handful of



The clampers immobilising the Fiesta in southwest London yesterday. "About time too," said one resident

cars had been clamped by the end of the first day, the two vans that will be involved in the trial are capable of dealing with up to 50 vehicles a day. The number is expected to increase as the project gets fully into its stride. Mr Madoc was adamant that only the worst offenders would be clamped and that owners who

produced a disc dated the day of the clamping would probably have their fee waived.

He said that although the clamping firm was being paid a fee for every car immobilised, the DVLA would always make the final decision about whether a car should be clamped. "The main thing is getting out on the street and

being seen on the street," he said.

Certain categories of car, including those owned by disabled drivers, doctors on call and diplomats will be spared, as well as cars over 25 years old, which no longer have to be taxed.

The three-month trial will initially concentrate on the

borough of Kensington and Chelsea but will also rove into the adjoining boroughs of Westminster, Wandsworth and Hammersmith and Fulham to stop drivers escaping justice by parking over the border. If successful, the scheme will be extended to other London boroughs later in the year.

### Car-boot painting may fetch £18,000

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

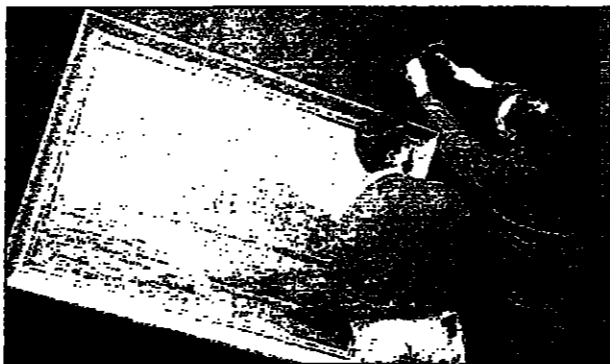
A VICTORIAN painting bought for £35 in a car-boot sale in west London seven years ago could fetch £18,000 for the man who spotted it.

The owner, a 44-year-old London carpet dealer who wishes to remain anonymous, noticed the canvas in the back of a Ford Transit van at the sale in Hounslow. He haggled for ten minutes, eventually knocking the price down from £50 to £35.

Eventually, he took it to be valued at Christie's. They

identified it as a view of St Michael's Mount in Cornwall by Benjamin Williams Leader (1831-1923). The owner said yesterday: "For once I was at a loss for words. I thought the painting might have been worth £400 or £500."

He goes to car-boot sales once or twice a year, looking for books. "The canvas at the sale was sticking out from a pile of furniture and other knick-knacks. I went to the library once to look it up and found nothing. I thought it



The view of St Michael's Mount, bought for £35

was another one of those unknown painters."

Martin Beisly, Christie's director of Victorian pictures, said: "The vendor brought the picture in out of curiosity. I was delighted to be able to tell

him it was a lost work by Leader. It is very beautiful."

Leader was a highly rated Worcester landscape painter who exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in London between 1857 and 1922.

### Chemical firm ordered to pay £500,000 for contamination

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CHEMICAL company was ordered yesterday to pay out almost £500,000 after failing to prevent toxic emissions contaminating an area of north Derbyshire.

Coalite Chemicals was fined £150,000 with £300,000 costs for leaking dioxins into the atmosphere from its plant in Bolsover, near Chesterfield, in 1990 and 1991.

The dioxins, chemical by-products linked with cancer, contaminated local people, farm animals and land,

Leicester Crown Court was told. Coalite admitted a charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act of failing to prevent the emissions, ending the biggest investigation by the Pollution Inspectorate.

The investigation discovered a link between emissions from the plant's incinerator and high dioxin levels in the immediate environment. The problem was caused by operatives burning waste at below the instructed 800C. The particles landed on cow pastures and entered the food chain.

Mr Justice Brooke said the operatives of Coalite's incinerator had failed to comply with "very clear written instructions". But he added: "In my judgment it is not only the operatives and their supervisors who are to blame for what happened... I remain of the view that it is the management who are most seriously to blame for not ensuring that their staff knew why they were being instructed not to burn waste within 12 hours of starting up or at temperatures of less than 800C and for not having effective monitoring systems in place."

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Findings could lead to 'cure'

# Scientists isolate cause of addiction to cigarette smoke

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

CIGARETTES may cause addiction by suppressing the action of a key brain chemical, American scientists report today. They have found that the brains of smokers have about 40 per cent less of an enzyme called monoamine oxidase B (MAO-B) than do those of non-smokers or former smokers.

The enzyme's role is to break down dopamine, a signalling chemical that helps regulate mood, movement and the reinforcement of behaviour patterns. Lower levels of the enzyme mean higher levels of dopamine, to which smokers become accustomed.

The finding, reported in *Nature* by a team led by Dr Joanna Fowler of Brookhaven National Laboratory in upstate New York, may also explain why it is that smokers have a lower risk of Parkinson's disease. The symptoms of the disease are caused by a deficiency of dopamine, which is increased in smokers by the effect on MAO-B.

Lower levels of the enzyme have already been measured in the blood of smokers, but the Brookhaven team has shown that this is also true in the brain. They used positron emission tomography, a sensitive brain-scanning technique,

to measure the amounts of a radioactive tracer which binds to MAO-B.

Seven smokers and six non-smokers volunteered to have the tracer injected into their bloodstream. The quantities in the brain gave a measure of the amount of MAO-B present; it was 40 per cent lower in smokers' brains.

If indeed it is the reduction of MAO-B that helps people to become addicted to smoking, the finding has a number of implications. One is that drugs that mimic the effect of smoking by depressing MAO-B could help smokers give up by producing the same "feel-good" effects in the first difficult weeks.

There is some confirmation of this in recent studies cited by the team showing that the drug moclobemide, which inhibits the closely related enzyme MAO-A, does help heavy smokers give up.

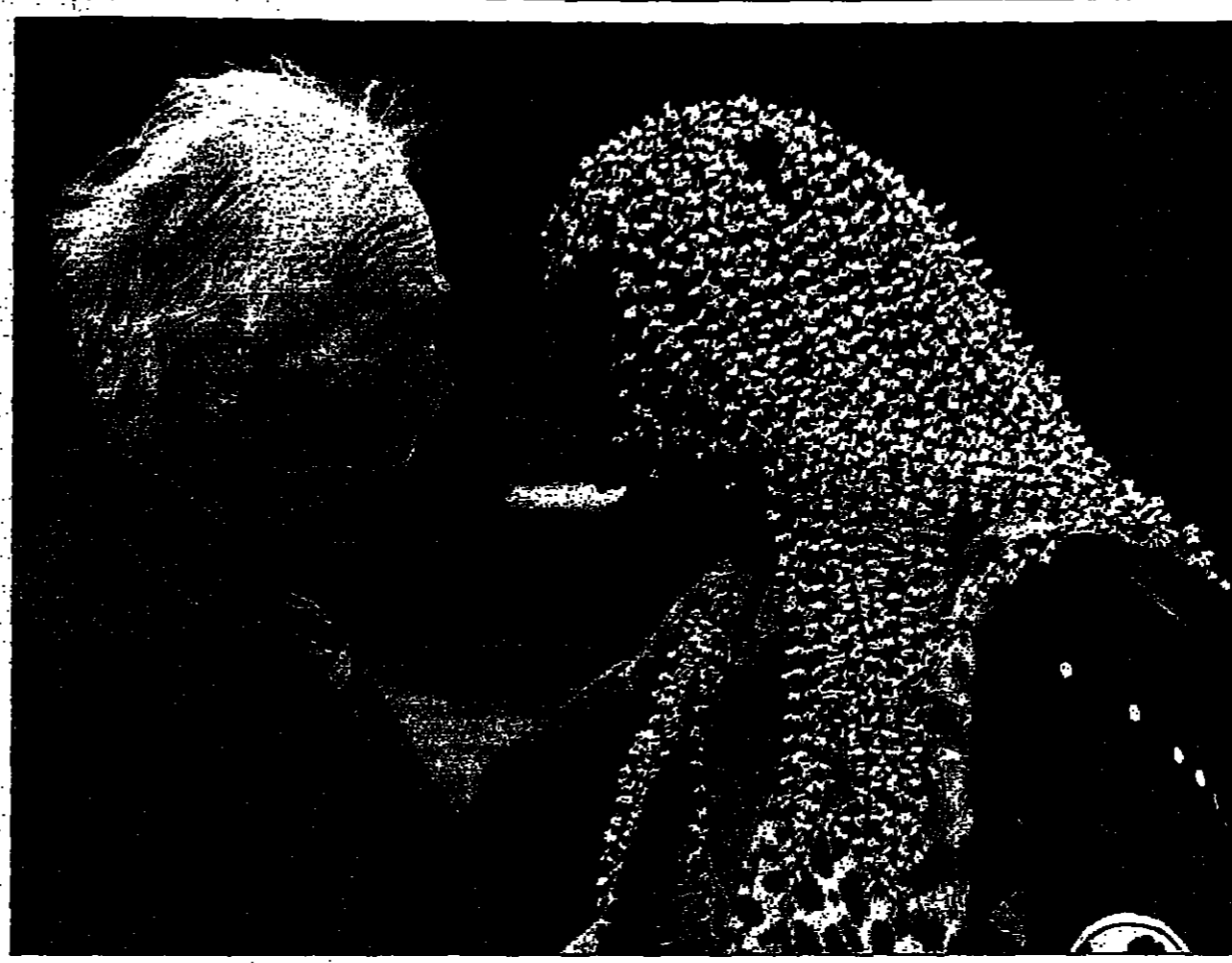
In a commentary in the same issue of the journal, two scientists unconnected with the Brookhaven team, Alexander Glassman of Columbia University and George Koob of the Scripps Research Institute, draw even more sweeping conclusions. They say that the increase of

dopamine in smokers may explain why they are more alert and perform better in some tests of mental ability. They also say that the inhibition of the enzyme may be the reason why cigarettes are often a "gateway" drug.

Dopamine plays a key role in reward signalling and addiction, they say. Almost all drugs of addiction, including cocaine, amphetamines, heroin, alcohol and nicotine, provide their "lift" through the dopamine signalling system. "If dopamine availability is significantly altered by MAO-B inhibition, this could influence the vulnerability of an individual to various aspects of addiction."

For example, studies show that smokers are more likely than non-smokers to become alcoholics, or addicted to other drugs. The inhibition of MAO-B could explain this gateway role, they say, and if so "it would raise even further the concern about adolescent exposure to cigarettes."

The ingredient in the smoke that causes these actions is at present unknown, but it is increasingly evident, the two scientists say, that nicotine is not the only psychoactive component of tobacco smoke.



Head to head: Chief Gaeleka explains the urgency of his mission to Major-General Ian Robertson

## Headhunter undeterred by Scots miss

By Stephen Farrell

A XHOSA witchdoctor's quest for his ancestor's skull took him on a spirit fight over a Highlands forest yesterday. Wearing a leopard skin and brandishing a fly whisk, Chief Nicholas Gaeleka arrived at The Highlanders regimental museum in Fort George to search for the head of his great-great uncle.

Greeted with a glass of whisky by

Major-General Ian Robertson, retired, the chief searched the museum fruitlessly for the skull of the warrior chieftain King Hintsa. He claims King Hintsa was killed by the Highlanders in May 1835, when he tried to escape during the Sixth Frontier War.

Colonel Murdo MacDonald said that only King Hintsa's ears, not his skull, had been removed and he was killed by George Southey, of the Corps of Guides, not the 72nd Highlanders. He was

decapitated by Southey's brother William. "The head of the king is not in the museum, nor has it ever been," he said. Chief Gaeleka, from Butterworth in the Eastern Cape, emerged to claim the skull was buried near a forest near by. "I saw a pony in my dream and when I went to that place today it ran to me," he said. "It is the pony I saw in my dream and it will guide me to the skull. The spirits will come to me again tonight and then I will find it."

## Driver is remanded in Celine murder

A self-employed lorry driver appeared before magistrates at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday, charged with murdering the French accountancy student Celine Figard between December 18 and 30 last year. Stuart Morgan, 36, of Poole, Dorset, was remanded in custody for a week.

Ms Figard was last seen alive at the Chiveley service station on the M4 in Berkshire. Her body was found in a layby near Worcester ten days later. She had been strangled.

## Gatting apology

The cricketer Mike Gatting received an apology and undisclosed damages in the High Court over an allegation in a book by Ivo Tennant, published by Cassel, that he epitomised the outlook of a racially prejudiced Englishman.

## Carey for TUC

Dr George Carey will become the first Archbishop of Canterbury to address the TUC's annual conference when he speaks to delegates at next year's gathering. A venue for the congress has yet to be agreed.

## Paisley funeral

The world of football paid its last respects to Bob Paisley, the former Liverpool manager who died last Wednesday at the age of 77. Current and former players of many clubs attended the funeral service at Woolton, near his home.

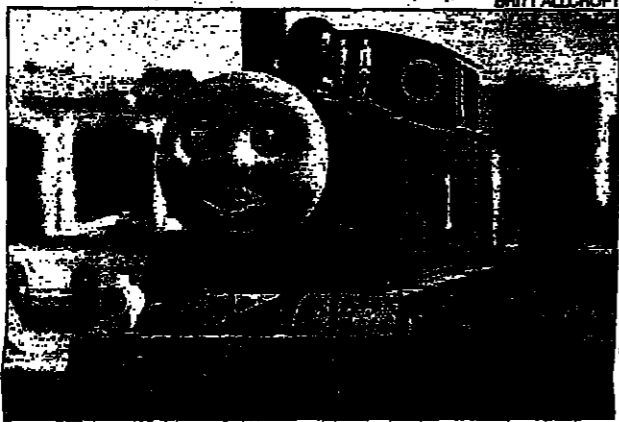
## Sea crash deal

Survivors of the Cormorant Alpha helicopter crash in the North Sea in 1992, in which 11 people died, have reached out-of-court settlements with Shell and Esso. Lawyers for the companies and 53 claimants refused to discuss detail.

## Aston debut

A new 150mph Aston Martin will make its debut at the Geneva Motor Show next month. The £139,000 V8 Coupé has a new 5.3 litre engine and can reach 60mph in six seconds. The first cars should be with customers by the end of May.

## Thomas makes tracks for a fat-free run along Hollywood lines



Thomas as British television viewers know him

By Aleksandra Fieban, Media Correspondent

THOMAS the Tank Engine, the cheery steam-train hero of the British children's TV series, is taking a branch line to Hollywood via small-town America. Paramount studios has signed the blue engine and his friends Percy, Henry, James, Gordon and the Fat Controller for their feature film debut.

Britt Allcroft, whose television adaptation of the Rev W Awdry's 1940s railway series has brought Thomas new fame, said yesterday that she would be writing and produc-

ing the film, *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*, and there would be minor alterations to the characters within the spirit of the original. In the American version of the TV series, the Fat Controller already goes by the less "fatist" name of Sir Topham Hat.

Ms Allcroft said the film would combine the animated characters with live characters from *Shining Time Station*, a children's series that her company makes for American television. It is about a small-town railroad community in the mythical Indian Valley and stars the comedy actor

George Carlin, who is expected to appear in the film.

"We are very excited by this wonderful opportunity to put a story onto the big screen that we hope children and grown-ups will enjoy and remember," she said. Ringo Starr, who provided the voiceover for the first television series in Britain, is not expected to participate.

The film will be shot in Britain's Shepperton Studios and the United States for release in 1997.

Thomas the Tank Engine first appeared in 1945, after Mr Awdry created him to

amuse his son, Christopher, who had measles. Sales of the books remained steady until the early 1980s, when Ms Allcroft adapted the stories for television.

The series became a hit in 20 countries, with a particularly big following in America and Japan. Merchandising spin-offs, including a bedroom collection, clothing, toothbrushes and mugs, turned Thomas into a huge industry. Last year he earned gross licensing revenues of £1.2 billion.

Mr Awdry, 84, has criticised the television series — describ-

ing parts of it as "rubbish" and lamenting its "ignorance of railway practice" — but his family is understood to have earned an estimated £7 million from Thomas's international popularity.

The British charity premiere of the film *Broken Arrow* — starring John Travolta and Christian Slater as Stealth bomber pilots caught up in a conspiracy to steal nuclear missiles — is to be held next month at a multiplex cinema in Bury, Greater Manchester, and hosted by the Manchester United football team.

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# UN fears Iraq may build missiles that can reach Britain

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations fears that Iraq may be trying to develop a long-range missile that could propel biological and chemical warheads as far as Britain.

UN weapons inspectors have launched an investigation after the discovery of gyroscopes from Russian-made intercontinental missiles, and Iraq's admission that its missile programme was much more extensive than previously known.

Iraq, now prohibited from possessing missiles that can fly further than about 94 miles, revealed last autumn that before the Gulf War it had been working on a new generation of missile engine with a range of 1,875 miles.

Particularly disturbing was the fact that the new missile's projected payload was a mere 440lb, militarily insignificant if packed with high explosives, but of about the size of the biological warheads that Iraq is known to have assembled on the eve of the Gulf War.

Suspicious that Iraq may have revived the programme were aroused by the intercep-

tion of 115 sophisticated gyroscopes being shipped to Iraq through Jordan in November, and the subsequent discovery of more sophisticated gyroscopes at the bottom of the Tigris Canal just outside Baghdad.

Western officials say the gyroscopes are of the type used in Russia's SSN19 submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile, each of which contains three such devices. The intercontinental missile can guide a missile for up to 5,000 miles, were apparently sold on the black market after being taken from SSN19s dismantled under the START treaty.

Caught, re-identified, Iraq claimed the gyroscopes were imported by mistake and that it was actually seeking parts for its permitted short-range missile programme. But UN inspectors have alerted the Security Council that Iraq may be continuing to try to develop a long-range missile.

In his latest report last December, Rolf Ekenski, the chief UN weapons inspector, writes: "There is evidence that this acquisition is for long-range missiles and thus fur-

ther indicates continued activities in Iraq in the area of prohibited missiles."

Iraq has admitted that it has conducted at least one covert missile programme since the Gulf War despite UN monitoring, attempting to convert Soviet-made SA2 surface-to-air missiles into a ground-to-ground missile with a range of 187 to 313 miles.

Security Council members are now eagerly awaiting the outcome of the UN investigation into Iraq's long-range missile programme.

Iraq has yet to account for 14,965 pints of anthrax it says it produced in the run-up to the Gulf War, and a missile with a range of 1,875 miles could put almost all of Europe under threat of a devastating biological attack.

"That range would miss London, but not by much," said one Western official. "They would hit somewhere in the middle of the English Channel, but it would certainly bring Paris into range. It may get as far as the southeast corner of Britain — the Kent coastline."

Washington: Ukraine has been accused of selling or leasing Antonov aircraft to Colombia's notorious drug cartels. The report comes as President Kuchma arrived for a three-day visit during which he will meet President Clinton and senior White House officials. Kiev, Ukraine's capital, has denied the report. But the State Department said: "Obviously the report is disturbing." It is expected to be raised with Mr Kuchma. (AP)



## Serbs flee Sarajevo

A Serb woman leaves the Sarajevo suburb of Vogosca yesterday as the Muslim-Croat Federation prepared to take it over from Bosnia's Serb Republic tomorrow under the Dayton peace

agreement. Tension rose in the Serb areas of Sarajevo last night and remained high in the divided Bosnian

city of Mostar as it took hesitant steps towards reunification. About 150 desperate Vogosca residents, many of

them weeping women, jammed a town meeting room to demand help from United Nations police, fearing reprisals for the 43-month Serb siege of Sarajevo. (Reuters)

### WORLD SUMMARY

## Tibetan captives escape

Hong Kong: Ten Tibetan prisoners being moved between jails escaped last month and their Chinese guard-driver was killed, according to reports (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

The driver may have died when his lorry swerved into a river after the prisoners threw chilli powder into his eyes. Four of the prisoners were monks, sentenced to three years for publicly condemning Peking's designation last year of a six-year-old boy as the eleventh incarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest lama. The Chinese barred the Dalai Lama's own choice, who has since disappeared with his family.

## Rifkind names envoy to Tirana

Tirana: Malcolm Rifkind announced the appointment of the first Ambassador to serve in Albania, and won immediate praise from President Berisha (Michael Binyon writes). Making his first visit to Europe's most impoverished and formerly most isolated country, the Foreign Secretary said that Andrew Tesoriere, the chargé d'affaires, had been promoted to full Ambassador after a freeze lasting 45 years.

## Detectives seize minister's papers

Johannesburg: Fraud squad detectives have seized documents from the home and offices of Abe Williams, 56, the South African Welfare and Population Development Minister, in a case relating to alleged favouritism in the granting of tenders to pension companies (Inigo Gilmore writes). Mr Williams is a Coloured member of the National Party.

## Australia gets euthanasia law

Sydney: Australia's Northern Territory has passed what is believed to be the world's first law allowing terminally ill adults to ask doctors to end their lives. The Bill was first mooted by Marshall Perron, then Chief Minister, after his mother's death in 1994. He resigned to allow party members a free vote. (Reuters)

## Defection move

Seoul: In an attempt to prevent embarrassing defections, North Korea is ordering the children of senior officials posted abroad to return home, reports in the South Korean capital said. (AP)

## Black pupils run sjambok gauntlet

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

HUNDREDS of black pupils marched through a small Orange Free State town yesterday after clashes with whites in another violent encounter over admission to formerly whites-only schools.

On Tuesday, about 400 black pupils rampaged through Trompsburg after

they were chased by a group of 20 white men armed with sjamboks and pickhandles. The children smashed windows and cars and set fire to a house.

The conflict began on Monday when black township pupils occupied the nearby Trompsburg Secondary School, saying they wanted access to empty classrooms. Henzie Serfontein, the school

principal, said parents of the 95 white children chased the blacks away because they were "fed up". Businesses in the town were reported to be closed and the streets deserted yesterday as pupils marched to a police station where they handed over a petition.

The incident occurred just days after a judge, in a landmark ruling, ordered a white primary school to admit

black pupils. Yesterday the judge, Tjibbe Spoelstra, quashed an appeal by the school in Potgietersrus, 160 miles north of Johannesburg, effectively forcing the school to open its doors to all. The dispute is set for a showdown today when Ngokoako Ramathodi, Premier of the Northern province, leads 16 children to the classrooms under a heavy police guard.

## Song and dance for women in their 120s

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE world's oldest person and France's least likely rap artist celebrated her 121st birthday yesterday with a champagne party and a cake adorned with candles. Jeanne Calment entered the Guinness Book of Records last October as the oldest person still living. There have been other claimants to the title of oldest human being — Maria de Camino Gerónimo, a Brazilian who claims to be 124, is one of them — but only Mme Calment has birth records to prove her longevity.

This week, proving you are only as old as your taste in music, she released a compact disc, entitled *Mistress of Time*, on which she tells stories about her life to a background of funk-techno-rap music.

Mme Calment's birthday was celebrated at her nursing home near Arles, the southern French town where she was born on February 21, 1875. In Rio de Janeiro, Senhora Gerónimo found a fitting role for a woman who claims to be the world's oldest person: roughly a



Jeanne Calment proclaims her age in Arles and, half a world away, Maria de Camino Gerónimo rides a Rio carnival float on her birthday

century after her release from slavery, she rode on a carnival float dressed as the grandmother of an historic Brazilian slave revolt leader.

Propelled on top of the red-and-gold float that carried her through Rio's San-

tdrome, she portrayed a mythical African princess, Anaktuna, whose grandson, Zumbi, led a slave revolt 300 years ago. Senhora Gerónimo, surrounded by scantily-clad women, waved to the 90,000 singing and dancing spectators.

## Suicide note on Internet

Sydney: An Australian boy triggered a four-hour police operation on both sides of the Pacific yesterday after he sent a message on the Internet saying that he was about to kill himself. (Roger Maynard writes).

The 14-year-old boy's suicide note, which identified him as a 26-year-old man armed with a gun, was intercepted by police in Redmond, Washington State. American officers alerted the police in Perth, Western Australia, who, after a process of elimination from vague clues provided, knocked on the door of a suburban home at 3.30am.

Two heavy-eyed parents opened the door. Inside, the boy was still at his personal computer. The police said they would not be charging the boy.

## Crime pays well for young Americans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SOCIETY must apply market principles to crime prevention, according to a Harvard University economist with links to the Labour Party. Professor Richard Freeman found that the minimum wage was no match for the "starting wage" in the crime world.

Professor Freeman, who two years ago addressed a Labour economic summit in London, said the \$4.25 (£2.75) minimum hourly wage was less than half what a young man can earn in the early stages of a career as a thief. He proposed government action to raise young employees' remuneration to \$10 (£6.50) an hour, with tax breaks for employers. More than half the mini-

mum wage earners in America are under 25, and Professor Freeman noted that the bulk of people who turn to crime are young, less-skilled men. "Researchers went out and asked young people 'at what wage would you give up crime,'" he said. "The answers were all roughly in the same ball park. Two years ago it was \$8 an hour. Now it is \$10. The solution to crime is either to lock people up, which costs a fortune, or to get more pay to people."

At present, he said, the young person facing a choice between a career in work or a career in crime "has nothing to lose" by choosing the latter. Crime simply pays better, added the professor.

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New Hampshire win for coalition of conservatives, insecure workers and angry outsiders threatens

# 'Peasants' revolt' hands Buchanan the party crown

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REPUBLICANS were in a state of shock and turmoil yesterday after Pat Buchanan's sensational victory over Robert Dole, the Senate leader, in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor who finished a surprisingly strong third, demanded that Mr Dole should quit the presidential race so that mainstream Republicans could unite behind his own candidacy and defeat Mr Buchanan's protectionist and isolationist populism.

Mr Dole, although badly wounded, sought to ignore Mr Alexander, claiming that he was now in a two-man battle with Mr Buchanan for "the heart and the soul of the Republican Party" and calling it a "race between the mainstream and the extreme".

Mr Buchanan, delighted by the triumph of his "peasants' revolt", called on the party establishment to "behave like adults" and accept the people's verdict. "It's clear Pat Buchanan represents working class

### REPUBLICAN DELEGATES ELECTED SO FAR

Alexander	28
Buchanan	28
Dole	16
Forbes	5
Gramm	5
Others	2

There are 1,990 delegates to the August 12-15 convention in San Diego, California, who will choose the Republican nominee.

voters. I can bring them back... We can put together a coalition that can beat Bill Clinton," he said.

New Hampshire exit polls showed 38 per cent of voters would have backed Colin Powell had he been a candidate. As a result, yesterday saw a new surge of speculation over whether or not the retired general could now be persuaded to run to save the party. Friends insisted that he was not interested, and there is in any case no mechanism for him now to enter the contest.

Former Vice-President Dan

Quayle said the race was now a "free-for-all" that would last for weeks, and claimed his telephone had been "ringing off the hook" with friends pressing him to run. Commentators said the party had not been so divided since the conservative Barry Goldwater challenged Nelson Rockefeller's Eastern Establishment in 1964, and there was even talk of August seeing the first "brokered" nomination convention in nearly 50 years at which the party's candidate would be chosen in smoke-filled back rooms away from the public gaze.

President Clinton and his fellow Democrats were yesterday euphoric over the Republican disarray, which gives their party a sporting chance of both holding the White House and winning back Congress.

Mr Buchanan won 27 per cent of the vote, Mr Dole 26 and Mr Alexander 23 in the closest, costliest and ugliest New Hampshire primary ever. It was a humiliating defeat for the party's elder statesman, Mr Dole, 72, once enjoyed a 40 point lead in a tiny state where he had lost twice before. He had virtually the entire New Hampshire Republican establishment working for him and he spent millions to portray Mr Buchanan as a racist and extremist. But he still lost.

At a post-vote party he put a brave face on his defeat but was clearly devastated. "Now I know why they call this the Granite State - it's so hard to crack," he said before declaring war on Mr Buchanan. "Everyone who knows Bob Dole knows I'm a fighter," he said, reading from a prepared



Pat Buchanan in confident mood as he awaited the outcome of voting in the vital New Hampshire primary

statement. "We're not going to give up... In the next month we will decide if we are a party of fear or hope, whether we are a party that keeps people out or brings people in, whether we are angry about the present or optimistic about the future."

No Republican has ever won his party's nomination without first carrying New Hampshire, but Mr Dole may still do so. Apart from having much more campaign cash

than his rivals, he has 24 of the nation's 31 Republican governors in his camp and formidable organisations in key states. But the danger is that many mainstream Republicans will now desert to the younger, more vibrant Mr Alexander, who constantly argued on television yesterday that only he could defeat "Buchananism" this spring and President Clinton in the autumn.

As Mr Alexander said: "All the king's men and all the king's horses" failed to save Mr Dole. "Why doesn't Senator Dole step aside and let me take on Mr Buchanan? My fresh ideas against his wrong ideas would make a very good race," he added.

There is now the Republican Party can now deny Mr Buchanan a prime speaking slot at its August convention, even though his incendiary rhetoric at the 1992 convention cost the party dearly in the presidential election.

Washington: President Clinton won 95 per cent of the vote in the Democratic primary, which the White House, said was a modern record for a serving President without significant opposition. President Reagan, by comparison, received only 86 per cent in the 1984 New Hampshire Republican primary when he was unopposed. (Reuters)

William Rees-Mogg, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

### THE NEXT STAGE OF THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN

Primaries and caucuses in the next month

February 24	Delaware (P)
February 27	Arizona (P), North Dakota (P), South Dakota (P)
March 2	South Carolina (P)
March 3	Puerto Rico (P)
March 5	Minnesota (C), Colorado (P), Connecticut (P), Georgia (P), Maine (P), Maryland (P), Massachusetts (P), Rhode Island (P), Vermont (P)
March 7	New York (P)
March 12	Florida (P), Mississippi (P), Oklahoma (P), Oregon (P), Tennessee (P), Texas (P)
March 19	Illinois (P), Michigan (P), Ohio (P), Wisconsin (P)
March 26	California (P), Nevada (P), Washington (P)

Key: Primaries (P), Caucus (C)

## Outraged opponents pursue front-runner along trail of rhetoric

BY IAN BRODIE

WITH his loose tongue, ready quips, many years of columns, television commentaries and stumping for votes, Pat Buchanan has left a trail of inflammatory rhetoric that is returning to haunt him.

His words have given rise to charges by other Americans that he is anti-Semitic, racist, sexist and anti-homosexual. For as long as he remains front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, the criticism is likely to increase with pressure for him to explain himself. Even in orderly New Hampshire, the police had to be called when

Jewish activists exchanged taunts with Buchanan supporters and branded him a racist lacking only a Ku Klux Klan uniform. Far uglier demonstrations can be envisaged when the campaign reaches such cities as New York.

As an admitted political brawler and master of fiery polemic, Mr Buchanan is well aware of his power to infuriate and alienate. He knows, too, that many supporters agree with him.

Although he disavowed white supremacists, his denials often fail to carry conviction. For example, he once described Congress as "Israeli-

### Rail as they will against discrimination, women are simply not endowed by nature with the same measure of single-minded ambition

li-occupied territory", a reference to the powerful Jewish lobby. When challenged, Mr Buchanan, a committed Roman Catholic, said: "That's a witty, irrelevant line. What's wrong with it?"

He once described Hitler as racist and anti-Semitic to the core, but also "an individual of great courage, a soldier's soldier" and "a political organiser of the first rank". Of working women, he said:

"Rail as they will against discrimination, women are simply not endowed by nature with the same measure of single-minded ambition and the will to succeed in the fiercely competitive world of Western capitalism."

He is pitiless about homosexuals and AIDS. "They have declared war on nature and now nature is exacting an awful retribution," he said. AIDS victims, in his view, are

not victims of society, but have "killed themselves because they would not or could not control their suicidal appetites". Mr Buchanan announced in New Hampshire that, if elected, he would have no homosexuals in his Administration. Asked about blacks, he said: "I wouldn't rule it out."

He mixes his racist views with warnings about immigration. He once posed the

question: "If we had to take in a million immigrants, say, Zulus, next year, or Englishmen, and put them in Virginia, what group would be easier to assimilate and would cause less problems for the people of Virginia?"

He voices religious views seldom heard even inside an American church. "Our culture is superior because our religion is Christianity," he has said. "I believe it's superior to Buddhism and Taoism and other faiths."

Mr Buchanan's comments about Israel and Jews have generated the most hostility towards him. Arguing against the Gulf War, he said: "There

are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East - the Israeli Defence Ministry and its armen corner in the United States."

During the subsequent row, Mr Buchanan refused to retract, insisting that legitimate criticism of Israel did not make him an anti-Semite. But he did seem insensitive to Jewish feelings when he wrote that those doing the fighting would be "kids with names like McAllister, Murphy, Gonzales and Leroy Brown". He has also campaigned against alleged Nazi war criminals being deported from America to face trial.

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Why Germans no longer trust the mark

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Will Mandela's dream become a nightmare?

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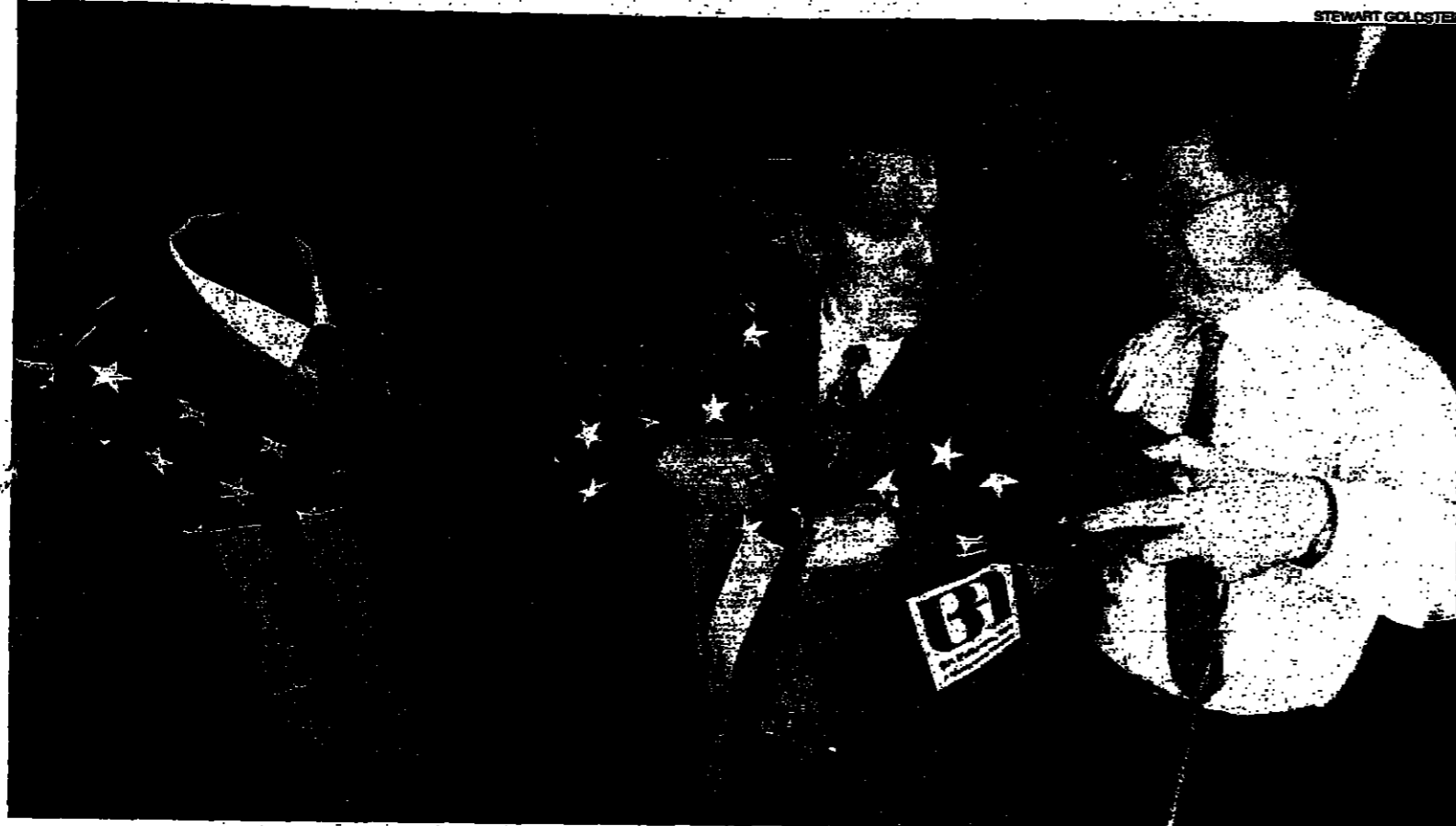
Lara eclipsed as ruthless India thrash West Indies

NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS See section 3

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22 1996



Derek Loveday, a tailor, puts the finishing touches on Bob Leonard's Stars and Stripes jacket that makes up the new fashion line adopted by BA Futures, the London futures and options trading arm of Bank of America. The jackets should help BA's 18 traders to stand out in the Liffe floor

Drop in retail sales sparks talk of fresh cut in rates

AN UNEXPECTED slide in January retail sales has fuelled speculation that the Government will make a further cut in interest rates next month. Retail sales fell 0.6 per cent last month in contrast to forecasts that had suggested a rise of 0.2 per cent. The scope for a rate cut was further underlined by the revelation that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, had only opposed the timing and not the principle of January's quarter-point rate cut. He next meets Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, on March 7. A clutch of other economic data and the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report have also lent support to the view that inflationary pressures remain weak. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC, said: "Any objections to a cut in interest rates as early as next month have been swept away by the last few sets of figures. Coupled with the signs of slowdown abroad, there is an overwhelming economic case to cut rates."

The gloomy outlook on the high street in January was blamed on the poor weather and the lottery, which claimed an extra £100 million in consumer spending due to the statistical freak of two double roll-overs in the month. The decline came despite drastic high street price cutting in the January sales. December sales were also revised downwards to show monthly growth of just 0.1 per cent as opposed to the 0.4 per cent reported last month. Sales in clothing, which fell by 1.2 per cent, and household goods, which declined by 1.9 per cent, were hit hardest. But the annual figures showed modest growth in retail spending, with sales in January up 2.3 per cent on January 1995. Sales over the three months from November rose 1.8 per cent on the same quarter in the previous year.

Ruth Parkhouse, an assistant director at the British Retail Consortium, said: "Consumers are not being lavish but we are seeing a modest pick-up in spending. This will be helped by the effect of interest rate cuts and tax cuts filtering through in the spring."

The publication yesterday of the minutes of the meeting between Mr Clarke and Mr George ended City speculation that there had been a serious disagreement between the Bank and Government over the rate cut to 6.25 per cent on January 18. Mr George argued that the case for a cut in interest rates was "narrow" and that delaying a cut would ensure monetary credibility was preserved, but insisted he was "not seriously opposed" to the policy. The minutes also reveal that a great deal of debate centred on the need to employ smaller but more frequent rate cuts in a low inflation environment. The Bank has softened its line on inflation in recent months, with its quarterly report, published last week, concluding that inflation was likely to be less than 2.5 per cent two years from now.

The report also concluded that growth is fragile. Other important inflationary indicators, such as earnings growth, have remained flat, with only the M4 statistics showing worrying growth, the Government and the Bank attributing that to a statistical blip. Pennington, page 25

US utility holds talks on bid for nuclear industry

THE Government is engaged in talks about a trade sale of the nuclear industry but could pull the float at any time right up until the pricing of the issue. GEC has been suggested by some sources as a possible buyer, although the company is understood to be uninterested in its present form in British Energy, the holding company for Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, but is monitoring the situation. Duke Power said it was not happy with the price being mooted. British Energy has been forecast to achieve a price tag of £2.5 billion in a flotation, less than the £2.9 billion cost of building Sizewell B, and could be construed as a giveaway and politically embarrassing. But a Duke Power spokesman, who said third-party talks had been conducted through Schroders, commented: "If the price was very attractive we would be interested but a lot of dollars would have to be shed." Labour rounded on the Government, saying that consideration of a trade sale - after the DTI had said only weeks ago that it had received no approaches - was an admission that the privatisation was expected to fetch a poor price on the market. John Battle, the party's energy spokesman, said: "Ministers have got it half right - they should call the flotation off because, as today's Trade and Industry Select Committee report shows, nuclear privatisation doesn't add up. But the alternative to a flotation must not be a closing-down sale, with Britain's nuclear assets sold off abroad to raise a fast buck for Tory election tax cuts." A big drag on any form of disposal of the nuclear industry is the £3 billion liabilities the business will carry for disposal of waste and decommissioning plants at the end of their lives. The select committee said that the nuclear industry would need a "miracle" to find a buyer if the Government maintained its policy of any purchaser taking over the liabilities. The committee made clear that, in line with ministerial pronouncements, it recommended that any buyer of the assets from which they arose. Urging the Government to establish "more reliable" arrangements for the discharge of long-term liabilities after the closure of nuclear stations, MPs said that if the Government maintained its principle of liabilities following the assets then the sale could be jeopardised. Martin O'Neill, the committee's chairman, said: "The Government has a long way to go before questions on the privatisation of the nuclear industry are fully answered." Pennington, page 25

Halifax closures prompt warning

A LEADING finance union yesterday claimed that mergers among banks and building societies could bring a further 10,000 job losses by the end of the decade after the Halifax Building Society announced that it is to close 120 branches. The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bifau), said: "The rush by building societies to merge and become just like banks will mean fewer jobs and less customer choice. It will also mean control of those societies being handed from customers to the big shareholders of the City of London." The 120 Halifax branch closures are in addition to 42 last August after the merger of the Halifax and Leeds building societies. The Halifax, which said that there would be no compulsory redundancies, plans to become a stock market company next year. Bifau said: "It's sad, but the job losses at the Halifax are what we predicted. It also underlines our fear for the future of TSB branches following the Lloyds takeover, where we believe another 10,000 jobs are at risk." Barclays Bank last night confirmed that 90 jobs would be affected by the closure of three of its cash centres. The Labour MPs Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central) and Alice Mahon (Halifax) said yesterday's announcement showed that past assurances on job losses after the Halifax/Leeds merger "had no validity". Pennington, page 25

Banks back identity card concept

BRITISH banks support the concept of an identity card scheme. They say it would make it easier for people to open bank accounts (Patricia Tehan writes). In evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee, the British Bankers' Association said it supported the principle and believes "the time is right". The BBA said the more widely an identity card was held, the more likely it would be used and "a compulsory scheme might be preferable". The Government is expected to propose a voluntary scheme this year. Sue Thornhill, BBA assistant director, said the opening of bank accounts are currently being denied to some people who cannot verify their identity. Pennington, page 25

Names awarded £9.5m damages

STEPHEN MERRETT, a former deputy chairman at Lloyd's of London, has six weeks to raise £500,000 as part of a £9.5 million court award made yesterday to a group of loss-making names. The award is the first instalment of an estimated £300 million in compensation for losses incurred by 1,932 litigating names on Merrett syndicate 418. Last November the vast majority of the names won a high court action against the syndicate's auditor Ernst & Whinney, now part of Ernst & Young. Mr Merrett, the syndicate's underwriter, his agency, the Merrett Underwriting Agency, and about 60 members' agents. Each defendant is jointly and severally liable for any compensation, the final level of which still has to be decided. If Mr Merrett or his agency fail to pay their share of the damages award, the burden will shift to E&Y. E&Y believes the final damages would be significantly less than £300 million and that its share could be as low as £15 million. John Mays, chairman of the Merrett action group, said E&Y could face a bill of as much as £150 million. Mr Justice Cresswell yesterday agreed to the interim payment and said that a further award would be decided in the spring based on the claims paid by the syndicate. Meanwhile, Chaset, the Lloyd's analyst, predicted that Lloyd's would announce a £1 billion profit this summer.

Gehe raises offer for Lloyds Chemists

Gehe of Germany yesterday raised its offer for Lloyds Chemists to £650 million, while UniChem, a rival bidder, launched a dawn raid on the market, buying a 10 per cent stake in its target. Gehe, Europe's largest drugs wholesaler, lifted its cash offer after an earlier £584 million bid was trumped last week by an increased offer of £630 million from UniChem. The manoeuvrings are the latest in a string of offers and counter-offers by the two companies that started in mid-January when UniChem launched a £544 million cash and share offer. Both have now made two offers for Lloyds Chemists. However, only Gehe can raise its bid further. As a result of the changes, Allen Lloyd, chairman of Lloyds Chemists, has seen the value of his holding leap from £38 million under UniChem's original offer to about £46 million under the terms of Gehe's latest offer. Gehe has raised its offer from 450p in cash for every Lloyds Chemists share to 500p in cash. That compares to UniChem's offer of 920p in cash and 16 new shares for every ten Lloyds Chemists shares, which values the group at 491p a share. Yesterday's news lifted Lloyds Chemists shares 2p to 491p, while UniChem's shares rose 7p to 249p. Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe, said: "Our increased offer is more than generous and compares favourably with the final UniChem offer. This is especially true given the potential risks that UniChem faces in integrating a group significantly larger than itself." He also criticised UniChem's offer, claiming the company had no experience in making acquisitions of such a size and that it would be financially stretched by the deal. But Jeff Harris, UniChem's chief executive, rejected the claims, adding he was confident that its offer would win shareholders' approval. Lloyds Chemists is Britain's second largest pharmacy chain with 924 outlets and a 30 per cent share of the UK drugs wholesale market. Gehe, which is majority-owned by Franz Haniel, a private company, entered the UK market last year with the £400 million acquisition of AAH. Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FT-SE 100, Dow Jones, and various bond yields.

Tecs blow

A House of Commons committee declared yesterday that the Government's Training and Enterprise Councils had made only a modest contribution to improved training in Britain. The Commons Employment Select Committee was "alarmed" at the way Tecs spend £1.7 billion of public money. Page 28

Chill damage

Household insurance premiums may rise this year as insurers try to cope with damage claims from the severe winter weather. Page 24

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Two-speed ERM plan to ensure stability

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS THE European Commission has drawn up proposals for a two-speed exchange-rate mechanism in an effort to ensure currency stability between the euro and currencies excluded from the single currency plan.

Weather threat to premiums casts cloud over CU record

PERSONAL household premiums may rise this year as UK insurers cope with multi-million pound damage claims caused by the severe winter weather.



Peter Ward, an executive director, left, John Carter, chief executive, and Tony Wyand, an executive director

This week, Guardian Royal Exchange revealed that it had set aside £25 million to pay for winter weather damage claims up to the end of last year.

biggest building society, when it transfers its £300 million household buildings and contents insurance account to Royal Insurance.

company's share price rose 10p to 614p yesterday. John Carter, chief executive, said that having 69 per cent of premiums outside of the United Kingdom, and the stabilising effect of the life business would be important "as the cyclical downturn in the UK takes effect".

Abeille vie and Abeille assurances, while in The Netherlands, Delta Lloyd's pre-tax profit rose £62 million, to £162 million, including £18 million of life profits.

Tempus, page 26

EEF seeks Labour role

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S engineering industry yesterday asked to take part in the Labour Party's task force on industrial competitiveness in what is thought to be the first formal move by business to join Labour in preparing for government.

Government, since the federation is considered one of the more traditional bastions of industry, in which support for the Conservatives runs deep.

into a Labour statement on business to the party conference in the summer. Recently, Sir Terence Conran, founder of Habitat, declared his support for Labour at the launch of one of the task groups, on design and innovation, on which he is serving.

Bremer Vulkan files for creditor protection

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

BREMER VULKAN, the troubled German shipbuilder, has announced 1995 losses of DM1 billion and filed for protection from its creditors after failing to secure an eleven-hour rescue package to keep it afloat.

Composition proceedings are aimed at rehabilitating an insolvent business by scaling down indebtedness, with creditors asked to forego a certain percentage of what the company owes them over a specified time period.

Ernst & Young attacks 'radical' ASB changes

BY ROBERT BRUCE

IN AN unprecedented move, the giant accounting firm of Ernst & Young has issued a vehement attack on the changes in UK financial reporting practice being pioneered by the Accounting Standards Board.

that they are scarcely comprehensible by most accountants and other businessmen. The report, written by technical partner Ron Patterson, argues that traditional accounting methods are being discarded in favour of a radical theoretical agenda.

The changes come about as a result of the ASB's remit, which was to close the loopholes and grey areas that brought financial reporting into disrepute at the end of the 1980s.

American groups cut 1,000 UK jobs

MORE THAN 1,000 UK job losses were announced yesterday under two American companies' rationalisation plans. Most of the redundancies relate to 700 jobs that could go after Cummins, the US manufacturer of diesel engines for heavy-duty trucks, announced the closure of its plant at heavy-duty trucks, announced the closure of its plant at heavy-duty trucks, announced the closure of its plant at heavy-duty trucks.

Canadian Pizza slips

CANADIAN PIZZA, the pizza base and topping company that has issued three profits warnings since it floated two years ago, has cut its dividend after suffering a sharp drop in profits.

Forex firm to close

STEPS by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) to bring foreign exchange traders into the regulatory net, have resulted in the closure of a City firm, Alexmuir Management (UK) has informed the SIB that it intends to cease business.

Mediaset to be floated

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the former Italian prime minister, said that Mediaset, the broadcasting and advertising company controlled by Fininvest, his family's media group, will be quoted on the Milan stock exchange by late June.

Gas consumers lose out

THE service offered by the Gas Consumers' Council is deteriorating because of its reduced budget and the increased workload created by a 106 per cent rise in complaints about British Gas, in this year's funding round, the independent council, which is indirectly funded by a levy on British Gas, asked for an increase of 11 per cent.

Advertisement for Puerto Seco de Madrid, S.A. featuring the logo of the State Society for the Promotion and Equipment of Land and text about the exploitation of the Rail Container Terminal at Coslada (Madrid, Spain).

Advertisement for Ernst & Young attacks 'radical' ASB changes, including a list of awards and a voting paper for PLC Awards 1995.

Advertisement for Support for TransCo, including a table of exchange rates and a notice of meeting for Compagnie Financière Ottomane SA.

Financial statement for Compagnie Financière Ottomane Group, showing results for the year ended 31 December 1995, with various financial metrics and a table of dividends.

Advertisement for PLC Awards 1995, listing various award categories such as Company of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, and Best Annual Report, along with a voting paper and contact information for Coopers & Lybrand.

Advertisement for Compagnie Financière Ottomane SA, including a notice of meeting for the annual general meeting in 1996, detailing the agenda and contact information.

An American buyer for British Energy? Bankers support personal IDs Making sense of retail sales

Dukes of nuclear hazard

WHEN potential customers differ, what better to help to make up their minds than a stranger keen to buy the whole stock. Before privatisation of conventional power generators, PowerGen looked destined to be the unregarded also-ran to National Power. But that all changed when Lord Hanson did ministers a good turn by putting his company forward as preferred bidder in a possible trade sale.

On the surface, British Energy is a great proposition. Its big investment phase is over, cash flows are strong and, by virtue of its role in providing 24-hour baseload power, its market share is secure for the life of its plants. New nuclear stations are ruled out for years ahead, so the main purpose of investment is to sustain corporate momentum and keep ambitious managers busy.

In a public sale, the price will inevitably be pushed scandalously low by such niggles, along with Opposition muttering and fears that the shares will glow in the dark. For taxpayers, the correct response is not to make a trade sale abroad, but gradual privatisation. If only a third of British Energy were initially sold, taxpayers could benefit if and when experience breeds confidence in its performance in the private sector.



senior ministers, which is one strike against it. The British Bankers' Association also supports identity cards, even if yesterday's consultative document steered conveniently clear of the real reasons. The banks bear much of the cost of credit card and other fraud, and are also under growing government pressure to crack down on money laundering.

presumably the expense, onto the Government via ID cards. As to money laundering, nearly all of this, the banks accept, is done through corporate accounts rather than personal ones. Requiring someone to produce an ID card before opening an account will have little impact on international crime. It would, however, deny access to banking to those unwilling to carry a card while providing the banks with the ideal excuse if it is later proven that any account is put to the wrong use.

throw instant and unwarranted suspicion on any respectable member of the public who did not feel like carrying one. ID cards are another example of the shift in policing away from those who commit crimes and towards those who are rather easier to catch, the majority of law-abiding citizens. Car drivers, if they choose to exceed the speed limit, already know they are more likely to be caught and prosecuted than the professional thief who burgles their car for a living.

often as it has been right, but that as far as anyone knows, inflation targets will be met. The preference is for gradual, quarter-point cuts of the type we have been seeing. As to the one-offs distorting the January sales, the weather was indeed lousy but monthly figures are notoriously volatile anyway. Two rollovers on the Lottery had some effect but will eventually show up in consumer spending figures. Underlying the numbers was a clear sign of a slow-down in consumer spending. If this continues, a further rate cut will become politically essential.

Marching towards more rate cuts

THERE would seem to be no reason, other than sheer perversity, why the last base rate cut on January 18 should not be followed by another the next time the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England meet on March 7. Eddie George has by now made it sufficiently clear, in the minutes for January's meeting and elsewhere, that he stands for the forces of caution and responsibility. It is up to Kenneth Clarke to set the pace.

Numbers game

THE HALIFAX is adopting a "softly, softly" approach to demanding, as would be expected by a cuddly building society. Once a bank and quoted on the stock market, a rather harsher view may prevail. The big clearers have come in for enough criticism over job losses, but must accept there is further to go. For the purposes of crude comparison, the NatWest employs on average fewer than 22 people per branch. The Halifax, which would slot in as Britain's third biggest bank, will employ 26 people — but only if union fears of 1,000 job cuts, unconfirmed by the Halifax yesterday, are well-grounded.

Mistaken over identity cards

IDENTITY cards, like republicanism and armed policemen, have always been deemed acceptable abroad but incompatible with the British way of life. The armed police are by now inevitable, and republicanism has its attractions. But there is still time to resist ID cards. The idea has the backing of

French revamp aerospace and stir BAe hopes

By ROSS TURMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE has triggered the long-awaited restructuring of its defence and aerospace industries. In a move that will clear the way for overdue joint ventures and more collaboration with British and German rivals, President Jacques Chirac will today announce a committee to engineer a merger of state-owned Aérospatiale, the civil aircraft group, and Dassault, builder of the Mirage and Rafale fighters and Falcon business jets.



Dassault, maker of Rafale fighter aircraft, faces a merger

Thomson, the defence and consumer electronics holding company, is to be privatised later this year, the office of Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said yesterday. Thomson is widely seen as a potential partner for GEC, whose GEC-Marconi arm is Britain's second-biggest defence group after British Aerospace.

and railway equipment, GEC Alsthom. The French government has yet to decide whether to split out Thomson Consumer Electronics, which makes television sets and hi-fis around the world. However, in an unexpected move, Alain Gomez, chairman of Thomson since 1982, is being replaced by Marcel Roulet, past chairman of France Telecom. France Telecom has 20 per cent of the shares and the state 76 per cent. Trading in the tiny quoted portion was suspended for the announcement yesterday. BAe, meantime, will be seeking opportunities arising from the moves to restructure France's technically advanced

but financially weak aircraft industry. The British group is working with Dassault to develop a strike aircraft to replace ground-attack versions of Britain's Tornado jets and the French Mirage in the next century. It has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie, the civil jet consortium in which Aérospatiale and Daimler-Benz of Germany each control 37.7 per cent. President Chirac is reported to have told Serge Dassault, founder of the family-controlled warplane group, in which the government has a stake: "Dassault is too small, especially on a European level."

'Doubts' on Nadir broker

A stockbroker employed by Asil Nadir traded almost exclusively in Polly Peck International (PPI) shares on behalf of various Swiss-based companies, and was frequently late in settling the transactions, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Jason Davies, who worked from Geneva, once blamed a hurricane in the Cayman Islands for late settlement with AJ Bekhor, a stockbroking firm. Once, a debt for £307,000 was settled 11 days late.

Hugo Berke, former compliance officer at the firm, told the court of his "doubts" about Mr Davies' dealings on behalf of Riverbridge, Newbridge and Gateway. He had raised his concerns with Mr Davies, who assured him that the companies were not connected. Mrs Berke was giving evidence at the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former chairman of South Audley Management. Mrs Forsyth, 59, denies handling £307,000 and £88,050 in funds allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from PPI.

T&N advances

T&N, the automotive component and engineering group, announced a rise in pre-tax profits in T&N Holdings, its South African division, to R56.1 million (£9.58 million) for the year to December 31 (R41.6 million).

Payout lifted

Foreign & Colonial's Enterprise investment trust celebrated a 23.2 per cent increase in net asset value by raising its final dividend 50 per cent to 1.2p in the year to December 31. Cash realisations totalled £25.8 million.

Torex expands

Torex Hire, the tool hire company, has bought STL, a developer and supplier of computer based management systems, for £2.65 million cash and an issue of seven million ordinary shares.

Elf held back by flagging chemicals and refining

By CARL MORTSHED

THE downstream oil activities of Elf Aquitaine, the French energy and pharmaceuticals group, are being hit by refining overcapacity in Europe and petrol price competition in France and the UK.

A surge in oil production and recovery in chemicals helped Elf to achieve a 65 per cent rise in net income to Fr5 billion last year. However, Philippe Jaffré, chairman and chief executive, said the second half had been affected by a flagging of the favourable trend in chemicals and deteriorating refining

margins. The company sold the Texasgulf chemicals business at the beginning of last year, and M. Jaffré said Elf would continue to cut costs and dispose of non-core assets. He announced a new target for the group of a 10 per cent return on equity by 1998.

Elf's exploration and production profits rose from Fr6.9 billion to Fr8 billion after an 8 per cent boost to oil and gas production, mainly in the UK and Norway. Average oil prices rose from \$15.80 in 1994 to \$17 last year, but much of

the currency gain was lost because of the weaker franc.

Elf plans to invest Fr50 billion upstream over the next five years and is seeking a third leg to add to its areas in the North Sea and West of Africa. A further Fr10 billion will be invested downstream. Elf's refining operations only broke even last year, while chemicals contributed Fr5 billion (Fr1.8 billion). Elf is maintaining the net dividend at Fr13 per share.

Tempus, page 26

Vodafone warning

VODAFONE, the largest mobile phone company, said yesterday that increased price competition among the four main operators in Britain will put a damper on its profits growth in the forthcoming year. The company is reducing the tariffs on its digital service by up to 30 per cent in April, largely in response to lower tariffs introduced by other operators, notably Orange. Vodafone said capital spending will reach £450 million in the year to March 31, rising to £700 million next year. BT has formed a joint venture with MCI of the US and three others to bid for licences for an international telecoms service in Israel.

COMMERCIAL UNION 12 MONTHS' RESULTS Record profits • 14% growth in pre-tax operating profit to £509m. • Full year dividend increased by 7% to 28.25p. • Strong profit growth from operations outside the United Kingdom. • Life profits £87m higher at £244m. • Shareholders' funds up 30% to £4,074m.

Lloyds TSB ready to buy again 'if fit and price is right'

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ONLY two months after its £16.8 billion merger, Lloyds TSB is back on the acquisition trail, running its slide rule over large building societies, life insurance companies and fund managers. Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds TSB, refused yesterday to be drawn on which of the three would be most attractive. Any acquisition "depends entirely on the fit and the price", he said. Lloyds TSB had not been expected to consider another significant acquisition for at least 12 months. However, Sir Brian said that its £18 billion takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester last August and the TSB merger made it a strongly cash-generative business, that could fund another acquisition if the fit was right. Sir Brian went on: "If you are in an industry which is consolidating then there is no doubt in my mind that there will be further acquisitions in the financial services industry

in 1996. We have been participating in this consolidation and will continue to participate." The acquisition of a life mutual, to complement Lloyds Abbey Life and TSB Life businesses, made sense. But there was a lot of interest in life companies, and "if you are not careful some very fancy prices are paid. We are not in the business of paying a price that would not reward our shareholders," he added. Lloyds TSB would also consider the acquisition that would enable it to expand its mortgage business. However, its net new lending last year was £2.1 billion, which meant any acquisition would have to be "sizeable", Sir Brian said. The bank would also look at a fund management acquisition at the right price. After the TSB merger, the combined Lloyds and Hill Samuel fund management businesses had £28 billion under management in the UK, he said.

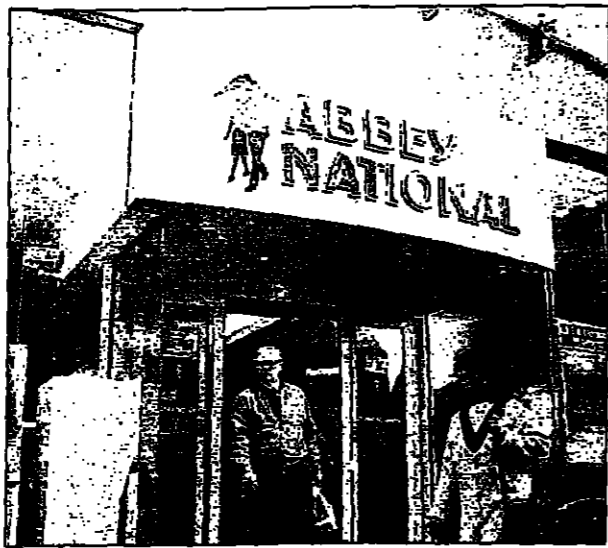
Torex Hire PLC (to be renamed Torex Group PLC) Proposed Acquisition of Smart Terminals Limited Share Capital After The Acquisition

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan gives shares a push with rates forecast

AN OPENING surge on Wall Street in both equities and US Treasury bonds helped London to shake off its earlier blues and end the day on a positive note.



Abbey National shares fell 7p on large turnover

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, came to the rescue of financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic with some soothing words about the US economy that raised hopes of an early cut in prime rates.

Tuesday's profits news and this week's £460 million acquisition of Garmore, stood out with a rise of 17p to 70p. Royal Bank of Scotland, the takeover favourite, added 7p to 584p, and Standard Chartered 4p to 603p.

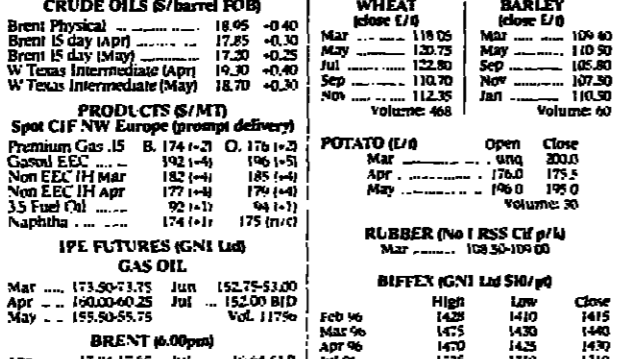
On the takeover front, Lloyds Chemists firmed 2p to 491p as the battle for control intensified, with GEHE raising the terms of its original offer and UniChem snapping up 8.6 per cent of the company in a dawn raid on the shares.

overseas operations accounted for 61 per cent of overall operating results. CU's performance focused attention on the rest of the insurance sector ahead of what is now expected to be an encouraging dividend season.

The speculators were out in force at House of Fraser (HoF), the Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones stores group, as the price climbed 11p to 188p on turnover of two million shares.

change also firmed 1p to 246p, while among the life companies, London & Manchester rose 12p to 392p, Legal & General 8p to 726p, and Britannic 1p to 743p.

HOUSE OF FRASER: SHARES STAND OUT AS THE SPECULATORS MOVE IN



Shares price

Abbey National fell 7p to 592p as a large line of shares went through the market. SBC Warburg, the broker, placed 2m million as part of a bought deal, picked up at 585p from one institution before selling them on at 590p for a profit of £450,000.

mand in this country was weaker than previously experienced and margin pressure in Europe remained. Brokers gave a warm response to full-year figures from Commercial Union (CU), Britain's biggest insurer, with the shares responding with a jump of 16p to 614p.

Unilever responded by sending brokers BZW and UBS into the market-place to snap up stock at 477p a share, raising its stake in the company to almost 10 per cent. UniChem said its acquisition of Lloyds would enhance earnings. By the close of business more than 30 million Lloyds shares had changed hands.

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MAJOR INDEXES

Table of major stock indices including New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and FTSE 100.

Table of various stock prices including BZW, Ballynarry, Clubhaus, Dimek, Ex-Lands, MediaKey, Nthm, Optical, Ormonde, Revelation, Self Sealing, Sitr, and Sivepharma.

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Table of MONEY RATES (%) for various currencies and financial instruments.

Table of LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES for FTSE 100, FTSE 250, and other indices.

Table of EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) for various currencies and banks.

Table of GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion & Co) prices.

Table of STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES for various currencies.

Chemists mix love potions

IN THE February of a leap year, Lloyds Chemists' shareholders have the pleasant dilemma of choosing between two rival suitors.

On the face of it there is not much to distinguish between the two. Gehe, the ambitious and wealthy German, has made an increased - but not final - offer of £650 million, marginally ahead of a rival offer from UniChem.

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CU

GOOD profits from life insurance and from overseas managed to cheer investors in Commercial Union who are worried about the gloom that is afflicting composite insurers.

CU's performance focused attention on the rest of the insurance sector ahead of what is now expected to be an encouraging dividend season.

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My Kinda Town

WITH new restaurants opening on every corner, results from My Kinda Town were a useful reminder that the trade is vulnerable to shocks.

With huge flag-out costs, investors need to be confident that the theme will last more than five years and My Kinda Town is sensibly not putting capital into the radio restaurant.

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COMMODITIES

Table of LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE prices for various goods.

ICIS-LOR (London & Oil)

Table of ICIS-LOR prices for crude oils and other commodities.

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table of GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES prices for wheat, barley, and other grains.

FT-SE 100

Table of FT-SE 100 futures prices and other market data.

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Table of monetary rates for various currencies and financial instruments.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies and banks.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

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Table of life insurance options and other financial products.

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Series Mar Jan Sep May Jun

Table of series data for various financial metrics.

Series Mar Jan Sep May Jun

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EMPUS mix love police

### THE TIMES CITY DIARY

#### Guinness-free day for Lyell

BUT for the little matter of the Scott report, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, might have been in Strasbourg on Monday. Instead, he was in the Commons facing his monthly 15-minute question session from fellow MPs. A few of whom felt that he should resign forthwith.

#### Cedric Part II

TODAY, British Gas's outgoing chief executive Cedric Brown intends bowing out of his last results presentation with more aplomb than was afforded him at the recent press conference for the company's demerger.



"How come the cold weather didn't hit the Lottery sales?"

#### Missing 'wake'

MEANWHILE, I learn that Brown is unaccountably unable to attend a glittering party at the Commons next week. He has been asked to a "wake". Not his, I hasten to add, but that of the Commons Employment Select Committee, which is to disappear following the merging of the employment and education departments.

#### Mega Megastore

THE irrepressible Richard Branson has chosen April 23 as the opening date for the world's biggest music shop, a Virgin Megastore, in Times Square in Manhattan. With 75,000 feet of retail space on three floors, the store will have more than a million CDs, 150,000 music titles, a vast laser disc and video section, multimedia stations, a concert piano and a stage.

COLIN CAMPBELL



ANATOLE KALETSKY

## German savers have lost faith in 'Camembert' mark

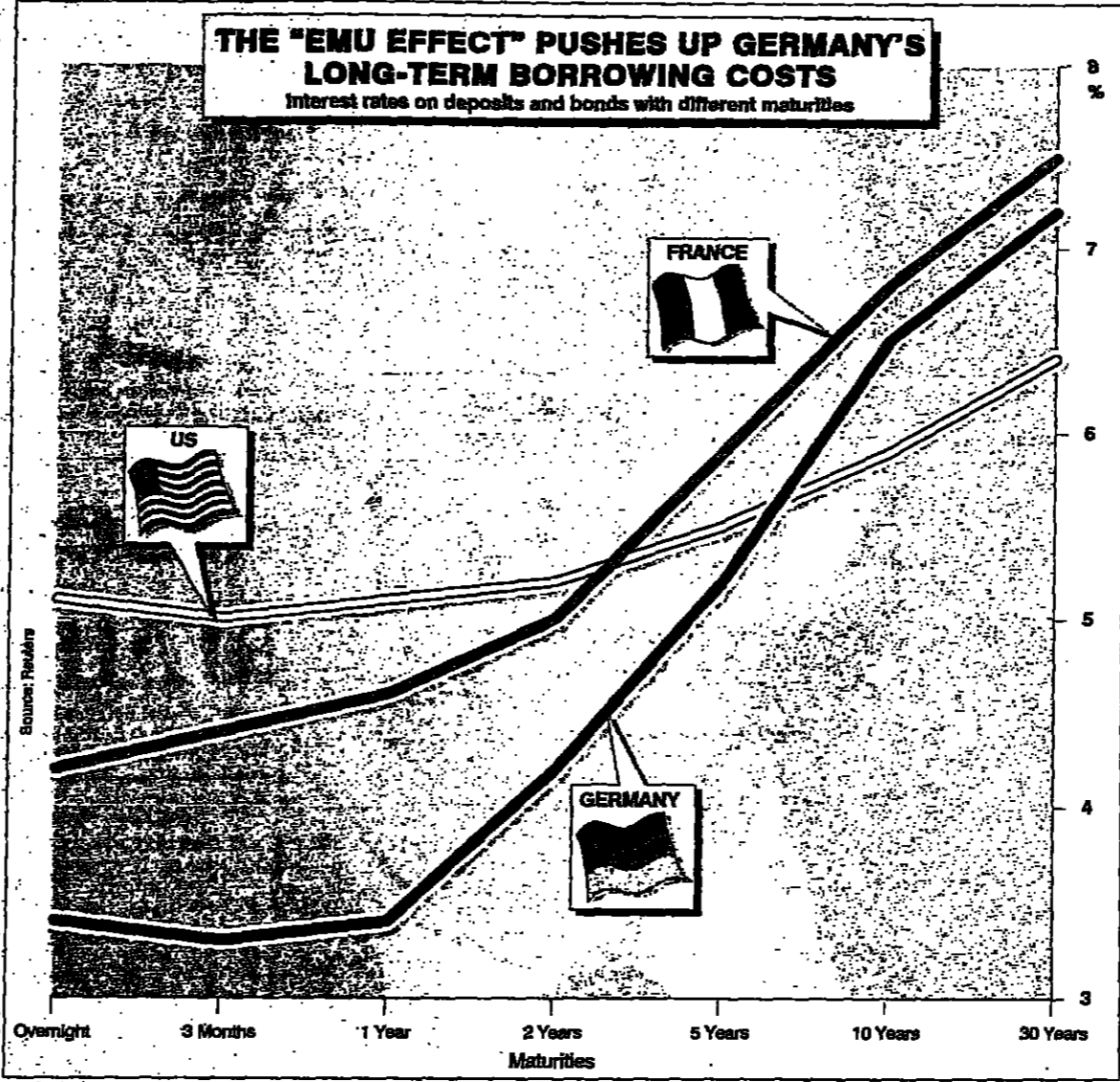
The EMU effect is the forerunner of political and economic tensions that await Europe

About a year ago I attended a small lunch in the City with a recently retired member of the Bundesbank Council. The guest, a lifelong Bundesbank official, had always opposed the idea of European Monetary Union but had been unable to voice his opinions in public until his retirement. He now predicted — with an outspokenness and clarity that British Eurosceptics would envy — that the German political elite's obsession with monetary union would lead to disaster.

It was all very well to argue that EMU would be a monumental blunder but history showed that political leaders were all too frequently capable of making catastrophic mistakes. And no nation in history had been more guilty of making horrible judgments than Germany. As analysts, we had to distinguish between what we thought ought to happen and what actually would happen. Regardless of what he considered right, did our German guest expect EMU to happen?

The Bundesbank's reply gave a premonition of the great politico-economic tensions that I think will dominate the European economy and the world's financial markets in the coming months. "I can only answer your question with a brief story. Since I retired from the Bundesbank some of my relatives have asked me what they should do with their savings as the date for monetary union approaches. I have always given the same answer: if you want to keep your savings in a hard currency, sell your German government bonds and put the money in Swiss francs."

These words started to ring true last summer, when German retail deposits flooded out of the mark into the Swiss franc. Both the Kohl Government and the Buba were clearly rattled by this flight into Switzerland and immediately responded with aggressive rhetoric, insisting that EMU would happen on the toughest of German terms or not at all. It was no coincidence that this was the moment chosen by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, suddenly to demand a draconian new "stability pact", going far beyond the terms of the Maastricht treaty, in exchange for giving up the mark.



worrying again about the threat of EMU. As a result of EMU fears Germany's ten-year interest rates have soared from 5.7 per cent to 6.4 per cent in the past month. But why blame this on EMU?

Firstly, because the Bundesbank itself now does. By all accounts, Buba officials right up to Hans Tietmeyer, the president, now speak openly among themselves and with their G7 colleagues about "the EMU effect". The painful consequences of this effect are illustrated in the chart. The Bundesbank has pushed its short-term interest rates far below American levels, yet longer-term bond yields, over which the central bank has no direct control, have stubbornly refused to move down. As a result, German companies are paying far more than American ones for their long-term borrowing.

#### If the Bundesbank's paralysis persists the implications could become alarming

This leads to the second reason for confidently blaming the rout in German bonds on EMU. Apart from the threat of EMU, everything else in the German economic background has been pointing to lower, rather than higher, long-term interest rates — especially in comparison with US rates. The recent worldwide bond rout was not very surprising — a setback in America and Japan was predictable and widely predicted. The real surprise has been that the German bond market has suffered more than any other (in bond market parlance, the

## Business must clean up its own act on late payments

Tony Bonner calls for education not legislation to tackle problem

Late payment has become something of a *cause célèbre*, with politicians competing to champion the small business cause — and occasionally tripping over their shoelaces. Hardly a day goes by without an article, a new survey, a letter to the newspapers, or a Private Member's Bill in the Commons complaining that small firms in the UK are being suffocated because they are not getting paid on time.

But how big a problem is late payment? Only last week a survey by the Forum of Private Business was reported as claiming that late-payers "keep small firms waiting 77 days". In fact, the survey showed that the average time taken to pay a bill in the UK, including those who pay on time, was 49 days. The figure of 77 days was an average of the bills that were paid late — ignoring the greater weight of bills that were paid promptly.

The real figure of 49 days is in line with other surveys, including those of the CBI (53 days) and Grant Thornton (50 days), and compares favourably with a European average of 61 days. Even though the latest Grant Thornton figures show a marginal increase in the UK average, they also show that we must keep the problem of late payment in perspective. That is not to say that late payment is not a serious problem for many firms. But the debate must be based on fact, not emotion, if we are to find workable solutions.

So who is responsible for late payment — Government, suppliers or customers? Government obviously sets the standard — and generally performs quite well. The DTJ claims to pay 93 per cent of its bills within 30 days, and all government departments have now been required to sign up to the CBI's Prompt Payers Code, but there remain pockets of poor performance that must be tackled. Suppliers must also bear some of the blame. Bad credit management is often a factor in late payment. If invoices are not sent out on time, contain errors, or are inadequately documented, you cannot blame the customer if payment is delayed.



Bonner: "culture change"

Advertisement for Fidelity Direct featuring a man's portrait and the text: "78% income investors... Excellent Service... It's the best offer you've had all year... Call free 0800 41 41 71... Fidelity Direct. Take a wiser line with your money."

#### Use lottery proceeds for repair of IRA bomb damage

From Captain R.J. Husk. Sir, In 1994 following the IRA bomb in the City of London, the Government decided it would no longer meet the cost of repairs resulting from terrorist damage to businesses.

#### Inflation forecasts are unrealistic

From Professor Kenneth F. Wallis. Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's discussion (Economic View, February 15) of the Bank of England's new-style inflation forecast overlooks the assumption that the interest rates will remain unchanged on which the forecast is based. Instead, he treats it like an unconditional forecast, as does the Bank's own presentation — "more likely than not that inflation will be below 2½ per cent in two years' time".

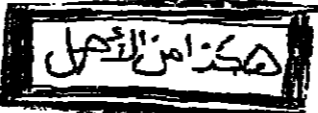
#### Paperwork generators

From Mr F. Hague. Sir, When public shares were privatised, my wife and I both applied for shares in order to obtain a reasonable allocation.



Comments please. Yours faithfully, F. HAGUE, 75 Woodland Drive, Anlaby, Hull, North Humberside.





# Shares recover from early falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	High	Low	Close	% Chg	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
BANKS					
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST					
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES					
FOOD MANUFACTURERS					
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT					
ELECTRICITY					
ELECTRONIC & ELECT					
HEALTHCARE					
HOUSEHOLD GOODS					
INSURANCE					
ENGINEERING					
CHEMICALS					
DISTRIBUTORS					

Company	High	Low	Close	% Chg	PE
MINING					
LEISURE & HOTELS					
PROPERTY					
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
TEXTILES & APPAREL					
TRANSPORT					
RETAILERS, FOOD					
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
WATER					

Company	High	Low	Close	% Chg	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
BANKS					
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST					
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES					
FOOD MANUFACTURERS					
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT					
ELECTRICITY					
ELECTRONIC & ELECT					
HEALTHCARE					
HOUSEHOLD GOODS					
INSURANCE					
ENGINEERING					
CHEMICALS					
DISTRIBUTORS					

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Company	High	Low	Close	% Chg	PE
BRITISH FUNDS					
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
LONGS (over 15 years)					
UNDATED					
MEDIUMS (6 to 15 years)					
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation etc					

Company	High	Low	Close	% Chg	PE
RETAILERS, FOOD					
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
WATER					

30 UNIT TRUST PRICES

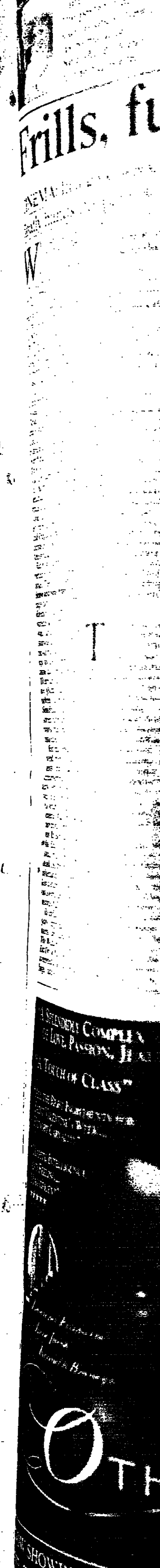
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ASSET & EQUITY, ASSET & BOND, and ASSET & COMMODITY. Columns include fund name, unit price, and other financial metrics.

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Advertisement for SAGE accounting software. Text: 'Looking for more account ability? You know where you are with SAGE. No.1 in accounting software.' Includes a barcode.





FILM 1

Jane Austen proves the perfect balm for our troubled times, as *Sense and Sensibility* comes to the big screen



FILM 2

A look at the side of Edinburgh tourists never see in a gritty movie about heroin addicts, *Trainspotting*



THE FILMS ARTS



FILM 3

... while *Casino* offers plenty of detail but not enough drama, as Scorsese goes behind the scenes in Las Vegas



TOMORROW

Meet Alanis Morissette, check out the latest albums, revisit the Brit Awards: all in Pop on Friday

# Frills, furbelows and the feelgood factor

CINEMA: In a good week for film, Geoff Brown finally hands the palm to *Sense and Sensibility*

Who said cinema does not reflect life's rich tapestry? This week you can watch hearts flutter and irony creep among bonnets, top hats and grazing sheep in the newest outbreak of Jane Austen fever, *Sense and Sensibility*. Edinburgh's finest drug users show their mettle injecting, puking and blasting out foul language in *Trainspotting*; while Martin Scorsese's eagerly awaited *Casino* basks in the violence lurking behind the glitter of Las Vegas.

**Sense and Sensibility**  
Curzon Mayfair  
U, 136 mins  
Defiant and radiant Jane Austen adaptation  
**Trainspotting**  
Warner West End  
18, 90 mins  
Abrasive junkie drama  
**Casino**  
Empire, 18, 178 mins  
Scorsese hits Las Vegas

ter, you should choose *Persuasion*, based on her inauspicious last novel, not the featherweight *Sense and Sensibility*, based on her first.

Yet there is always something to relish, even after the film slides gently into a rut. Michael Coulter's slightly bleached photography is a constant joy, glorying in green fields, grey skies and the honey-coloured stones of country houses, without making a fetish of prettiness.

Working from Thompson's agile script (her first for cinema) Lee creates a film that moves like a gazelle. It takes a special confidence to be quiet and subtle in a movie financed by Hollywood, but Lee has the requisite gift.

**INTERIOR. HORRIBLE TOILET. DAY.** This is not from the script for *Sense and Sensibility*, but for *Trainspotting*. Here you are thrown into the lives of heroin addicts from the side of Edinburgh tourists never see: lives full of suppositories, needles, retching and writhing, pain glasses dropped on to people's heads, and drug fiends descending into a toilet for their fix.

Although the sights may never be pretty, the tone, at least at first, is almost upbeat. "People think it's all about misery and desperation and death... but what they forget is the pleasure of it. Take the best orgasm you ever had, multiply it by a thousand and you're still nowhere near it," says Ewan McGregor's Renton, the leading character in a jumble of junkies, layouts and psychos. The words come from Irvine Welsh's cult novel, packaged for the movies by the team that made *Shallow Grave*: writer John Hodge, director Danny Boyle and producer Andrew Macdonald. That black comedy, however, was nothing next to this ferocious beast. Swerving madly, scene by scene, from realism to fantasy, driven forward by a pounding rock soundtrack, the film offers audiences no refuge. There is no condemnation of drug use, no matter how vile the consequences appear. Nor is there a strong plot to provide the comforts of fiction: Hodge's script retains the fragmentary quality of Welsh's novel, and we must fend for ourselves among the characters and striking images thrust before us.

Renton can at least reflect on his life and consider alterna-



Emma Thompson, rapidly becoming a one-woman Hollywood hit machine, has been Oscar-nominated for both her acting in and her script for *Sense and Sensibility*. The wooden Hugh Grant, on the other hand, takes diffidence to tongue-tied extremes as her eventual soulmate

True, this still leaves some areas of human activity unaccounted for, like the daily routine in a VAT office. But not everything can be cinematic. For a long time Austen herself was considered beyond the pale. All those elegant, curling sentences! All those social rituals of a bygone age! Hollywood has not shown an interest since the movie of *Pride and Prejudice*, made in 1940 during one of MGM's bouts of Anglophilia.

But now Austen seems the perfect balm for our troubled times. There is no violence in *Sense and Sensibility*, beguilingly filmed by the Taiwanese director Ang Lee from a screenplay by Emma Thompson, unless you count the stumble in the rain that brings an Adonis on horseback riding up to the susceptible Marianne and her strained ankle. There are no guns, no drugs, no ghetto kids. For frazzled urban audiences, *Sense and Sensibility* and its small-screen sisters are a return to a world that was clean, leafy and safe.

But the appeal reaches beyond mere nostalgia. Feminists may chafe at the circumscribed lives of Austen's heroines, but in some ways her characters are made to order for the 1990s. The engines that drive her plots are money, property and status. In *Sense and Sensibility* the Dashwood family faces social ruin when the father's death and the diversion of the inheritance to a stepbrother leaves them foundering without a home and on an annual income of £500.

The children of the Thatcher years appreciate such torments, and Lee, director of *The Wedding Banquet* and *Eat Drink Man Woman*, has assembled a cast that, by and large, subtly calibrates the

moods appropriate to a tale of hearts impulsive, hearts restrained, and money's lure. Thompson's dry wit finds a ready vehicle in Elinor, the eldest Dashwood daughter, the one who has sense, and whose heart is held in check. But the performance you notice comes from Kate Winslet (one of the bad girls in *Heavenly Creatures*). She bubbles delightfully as the impetuous Marianne, whose suitors include a brooding colonel (Alan Rickman, unusually restrained) and Greg Wise's Willoughby, the Adonis of the ankle, ever ready with romantic patter.

Then there is Hugh Grant. "Why did we cast him? He's much prettier than I am," Thompson wrote in the diaries published with the screenplay. Whatever his charms, his bizarre performance as Edward Ferrars, Elinor's beau, is not their best advertisement. True, Austen states that Ferrars is "diffident; but Grant's tongue-tied manner and physical bearing suggests someone stuffed. Hair tousled, the head slightly cocked, the neck invisible between fashion's bosques of cravat, tie and collar. A taxidermist could not have done better.

By exaggerating Ferrars's lack of social flair, Lee renders his romance with Elinor more shadowy than necessary. What, you keep thinking, could the spirited Elinor ever see in this man who belongs under a glass dome? This inflicts some damage as the film progresses. As the story winds from Sussex, to Devon, to London and back, the material's limitations show. For an Austen film where characters' feelings really mat-

ures. Among the others, Spud (Ewan Bremner) is too spaced out to notice, while Begbie (Robert Carlyle) is consumed with psychopathic violence. Carlyle's unerring performance gives the film much of its punch and sense of danger.

For young audiences willing to go with the flow, wherever it leads, *Trainspotting* offers an adrenalin rush, a sense of life ripped from the gutters, and the appeal of amorality. Those further on in life will admire the film's verve; may even relish observing behaviour rarely seen on British screens; but will totter out weary and numbed, ready for an early night.

Last but not least in this tumultuous week, we reach Martin Scorsese's *Casino*. Right at the beginning you know you are in for something grand when a car bomb explodes, flames leap up and a body falls through space to the sounds of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. We seem to be mourning the end of the world — Robert De Niro's world, at any rate. He starts as a bookie, an associate of the Mob in Kansas City. When the bosses want a stake of Las Vegas in the early 1970s, De Niro, alias Sam "Ace" Rothstein, is sent to take control. By the end of the decade he is king of the Strip, until an unstable wife (Sharon Stone), a thuggish sidekick (Joe Pesci) and his own blind pride bring about his downfall.

You can tell from the urgent pace, the immaculate dove-

tail of shots, music and voiceover commentary, that a master director is at work. Scorsese means business. Unfortunately we have seen the business before, especially in *GoodFellas*, another epic of Mafia life splattered with violence and Pesci running amok. De Niro plays the grand seigneur, who exercises rigorous control over the gambling tables and struts in fancy clothes; Pesci's Nicky Santoro is the prancing demon who extracts information by putting a man's head in a vice. Both performances are a pleasure to watch, but their element of surprise has gone.

The surprise, instead, comes from Sharon Stone, who is called upon to act far more than usual and meets the challenge. When we first meet her character Ginger McKenna, she's a gambling table vamp, luring big spenders. But as Rothstein's wife all her insecurities show: pills, the booze, and an unsavoury old flame (James Woods) bring her down, triggering the apocalypse with which the film opens.

But ultimately all characters — derived from life by Nicholas Pileggi, writer of *GoodFellas* — take second place to the sweeping depiction of Las Vegas at work. We see in fascinating detail how casino money is won, lost, sorted, packaged, diverted and skimmed. If the human drama carried the impact of the background detail, *Casino* would be a great picture; as the film stands, Scorsese is only half-way there.

## SNAP VERDICT

Every week on Moviewatch young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from Greater London...

**CASINO**  
Jim Irving, 22: Visually stunning and the actors were great. But too much voice-over, especially in the first hour.  
Ashan Waheed, 21: I disagree. The narration added to what was already a brilliant film. Worth seeing just for Sharon Stone's frocks.  
Iddo Goldberg, 28: If you've seen *GoodFellas* you don't want to see another movie that's exactly the same. Even the actors are the same.  
Celeste Thomas, 18: An amazing film, and Sharon Stone is the best I've ever seen her. But three hours is too long.

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**  
Ashan: I was bitterly disappointed. The screenplay is excellent, but Emma Thompson is too old for Hugh Grant; she could be his mother.  
Iddo: I disagree. I don't usual-

ly like costume drama, but I really got into it. Alan Rickman was tremendous — in fact, everything was great until Hugh Grant came in. He looked like he'd stepped off the set of *Four Weddings*.  
Celeste: Hugh Grant shouldn't have been in it otherwise a really good film.  
Jim: An opportunity missed: a strong story, but you didn't see enough of the countryside — it was all too tight. And there wasn't enough music.

**TRAINSPOTTING**  
Iddo: A wham-bam, in-your-face-man, amazing film. This movie does not recognise any barriers. It's a real "now" film; it describes our times.  
Celeste: The most stunning piece of work I've seen in the cinema for ages. Definitely for the young and open-minded, but go and see it.  
Jim: Superb. It mixed humour with sadness. One moment you were disgusted by the characters, the next you were laughing at them. And the soundtrack was perfect; it added another dimension.  
Ashan: A top-class British film. I don't feel that the main message was drugs; the main point was the interaction between the characters. You're not going to come out and look for the nearest dealer.

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CHOICE 1 Philip Schofield dons Joseph's Technicolor Dreamcoat



CHOICE 2 Alexander Lazarev in Glasgow with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE David Hare's brilliant Skylight transfers to the West End, fresh from its triumph at the Oliviers



DANCE Darcey Bussell is the life and soul of the party, as Covent Garden celebrates its fiftieth anniversary

LONDON

TECHNOCOLOR DREAMCOAT First night of revivals for Philip Schofield, playing the lead with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber-style musical...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

CHOICE 2

SWINDON Nicolas Moldovanu, the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's Russian conductor, takes up the baton for this week's programme...

CHOICE 1

McPherson's On E, an RSO commission. They are joined by Aberdeen's Tynes Quartet for a programme that includes Elgar's Introduction and Allegro and Schubert's Symphony No 2...

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Holocene World: Art and Culture (0171-636 1555). Leighton House: At Home with Lord Leighton (0171-632 3344).

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW Principal guest conductor Alexander Lazarev returns to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra this week for the premiere of Gordon...

THE CHANGING ROOM

David Siewe's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Third in the season of Royal Court...

THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Klugman's assessment of theatre showing in London

NEW RELEASES

BECK OF OBERON (PG) Writing whimsical romance set in a late 19th century New York...

CINEMA GUIDE

Goof Brown's assessment of films in London and Wales

CURRENT

CLOCKERS (18) Spike Lee's newly-hardened version of Richard Price's...

LEAVING LAS VEGAS

Nicolas Copola's revised production of the intimate drama from director Mike Figgis...

A LITTLE PRINCESS

Miraculous rendering of the children's classic, with Lilli Finckel as the heroine...

RENDZVOUS IN PARIS

Three tales of love and chance. Featherweight delight from Eric Rohmer...

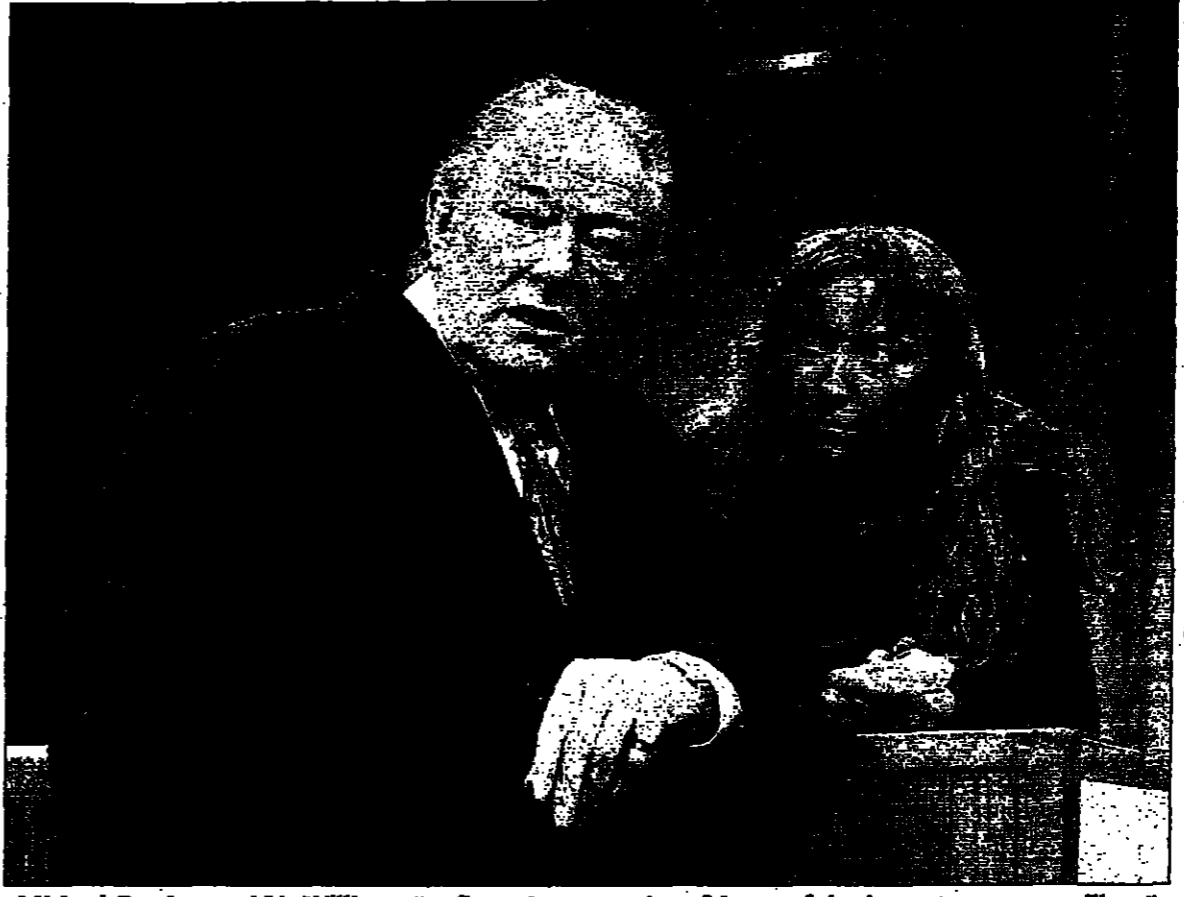
SABRINA

Businessman Hanson Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter in this comedy...

JOHNNY MENEZON

The Yakuza want the contents of Kazuo Ryuzaki's head...

To their hearts' discontent



Michael Gambon and Lia Williams: "as fine a demonstration of the art of sharing a stage as you will see"

My vote for the best play of 1995 went to Penelope, David Edgar's portrait of Babel in the Balkans...

the sub-1950s kitchen like a white rhino smiling out territory or a tank that has strayed into bumpy terrain...

high-flyer now proud to be one of the despised professionals who "clear out society's drains"...

for the individual; but Hare permits neither a walkover. Each has a point of view to put and a case to answer...

Birthday bash for a reawakened beauty

ful Carabosse - went through their paces with the bland well-meaning guests of polite dinner guests...

part in such a rich tradition. As Prince Florimund, her partner Jonathan Cope was the kind of guy who feels slightly ill at ease at parties...

THEATRE

APOLLO 64 020/04 444/02 000. Eves & Sat 12.30, 5.15 & 8.15. JENNY SEAGROVE...

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COMEDY 80 & cc 0171 265 1731. ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MASCARENE...

THEATRE

LONDON PALADINUM 0171 494 522/04 444/01 814. BEST MUSICAL...

THEATRE

PHENIX 0171 339 1733. BEST MUSICAL...

THEATRE

PRINCEDWARD 0171 339 1734. BEST MUSICAL...

THEATRE

PLAYHOUSE 0171 833 4071. BEST MUSICAL...

THEATRE

SANDY 0171 836 8881. ANGELA THORNE COMMUNICATING DOORS...

THEATRE

VICTORIA PALACE 80 & cc (no fee) 0171 262 8077. JENNY SEAGROVE...

THEATRE

ADRIAN "ANDREW" LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE...

THEATRE

APOLLO LABRITS HAMBURGERS...

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And make the best building win...















Alderbrook waits on early inspection at Wincanton Putty Road ruled out for season

By our racing staff PUTTY ROAD was withdrawn from the Stayers' Hurdle at yesterday's forfeit stage after injuring himself at home.



The David Nicholson-trained gelding was a well-fancied 7-1 chance for the three-mile championship race at Cheltenham on the strength of his battling Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle victory last year. He had finished runner-up in his three starts this season.

Banjo has been forced to miss the Cheltenham Gold Cup because of a muscular injury in his hind quarters. The Queen Mother Champion Chase or the Grand Annual. The West Country trainer has a live contender in Draborgie for the Arkle Chase. The French import, who romped home by 25 lengths in a Warwick handicap chase last month, is 9-2 joint-favourite with the Irish horse Manhattan Castle, who

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes Napi: NAHLA (4.35 Wincanton) and Next best: Gentle Irony (3.45 Lingfield Park).

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.00 Brave Patriarch, 1.55 Nemuro, and 1.05 Barton Bank.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 3.35 K J Pike & Sons Kinwell Hurdle.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 4.05 Ladbroke Handicap Chase.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.00 MERE MAIDEN HURDLE.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.35 GERTRUDE NEWELL NOVICES CHASE.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 3.05 JIM FORD CHALLENGE CUP CHASE.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 4.35 LICHESTER HANDICAP HURDLE.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 5.05 BONUSSPRINT STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.45 BLEAK HOUSE SELLING STAKES.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.00 MERE MAIDEN HURDLE.

Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.35 GERTRUDE NEWELL NOVICES CHASE.

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Table with columns for horse name, odds, and race details. Includes 2.45 BLEAK HOUSE SELLING STAKES.

Simple Arithmetic ready to resume winning ways

WINCANTON CHANNEL 4 2.35: Incheiloch has been a little disappointing since beating Certainly Strong on his chasing debut at Kempton.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Right Win, also a smart performer on the level, made a pleasing debut over hurdles at Sandown, but the form amounts to little.

Super Tactics failed to stay in heavy ground when fourth at Newton Abbot last month, and will go close on today's faster surface.

This race last season on route to defending his Champion Hurdle crown. Super Tactics failed to stay in heavy ground when fourth at Newton Abbot last month, and will go close on today's faster surface.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER 2.10 Tenor, 2.45 Sir Tasker, 3.15 Harlequin Walk, 3.45 Gentle Irony, 4.15 Elegantisima, 4.45 Mol Casarid.

3.15 BARNBY RUDGE CLAIMING STAKES

3.15 BARNBY RUDGE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,588; 1m 4f) (9) 301 (6) 00-9 EL ATREVIDO 18 (6) G. J. Walker 8-8-12 J. Stock 82

3.45 CONDO CENTRAL EUROPEAN FILLES

3.45 CONDO CENTRAL EUROPEAN FILLES HANDICAP (£2,914; 1m 2f) (8) 401 (9) 5-0 TAGELLAL 8 (6) G. J. Walker 8-8-12 J. Stock 82

Hopes rise for Wincanton

HOPES that today's Wincanton card, featuring the return of champion hurdler Aldredbrook, will go ahead have improved.

4.15 HARD TIMES MAIDEN STAKES

4.15 HARD TIMES MAIDEN STAKES (£3,468; 7f) (7) 501 (6) 00-3 BARRAGON 2 (4) M. J. Hannon 4-8-10 C. Kelly 81

4.45 NICHOLAS NICKLEBY HANDICAP

4.45 NICHOLAS NICKLEBY HANDICAP (£3,668; 7f) (3) 601 (1) 31-0 CAPMARTIN BAY 22 (6) G. J. Walker 8-8-12 J. Stock 82

Course Specialists

TRAINER: D. J. B. 12 winners from 25 seasons, 41% in Wincanton, 28 from 23, 24.2%, 20% in North, 17 from 27, 17.0%, W. O'Connell, 28 from 115, 17.0%.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 2 45 Star Talent, 3 15 Mister Lawson 3 45 Kollera Girl

SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE KEENE ON CHESS

Table with columns for Dealer South, Love all, IMPs. Includes symbols like ♠, ♥, ♦, ♣ and numbers.

Table with columns for White, Black, Women's world championship, Jaen, game 13, February 1996.

South's 3NT showed a solid seven card suit. North could see that it had to be hearts or spades, and he bid Four Clubs as an enquiry.

White: Zsuzsa Polgar Black: Xie Jun Women's world championship, Jaen, game 13, February 1996

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard IMAGINARY PEOPLE WORZEL GUMMIDGE a. A scarecrow b. A farmer c. A snuggler

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Arkhipov - Kuznetsov, USSR 1980.

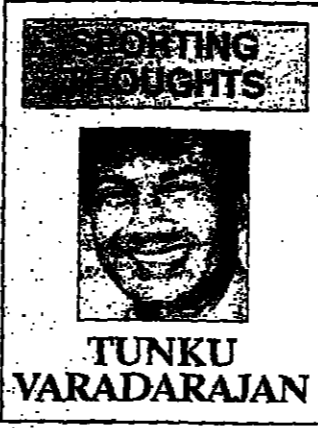
RACELINE logo and related text.

GOING: STANDARD 2.00 (7) 1, All Apologues (7) Lynch, 33-1; 2, Marino Street (7) 1; 3, So Natural (14-1) Burrows 4-0 fav. 6 min.



Sub-continent's stand threatens to scatter the field

Set up and take note of this cricket World Cup, for the international game could be turning a sharp corner. Do not be distracted by the apparent problems...



will no doubt regard this bid for independence as a mutiny. Mutiny: a wondrous, loaded word in the context. The historians among you will smile and observe that the Indian 'war of independence' of 1857 is in Britain known only as 'the mutiny'.

In Colombo be shifted to another venue. 'Koi hai? Shift our match, for God's sake, and jaldi!' the Australians would have demanded. 'Yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir,' the authorities would have replied, obsequiously.

changed some years ago, restricting to one the number of bouncers permitted in a Test-match over. West Indies were impotent: penniless, they rely too heavily on English goodwill and Australian dollars. And in emulating the Australians by their refusal to play in Colombo, West Indies merely confirmed that Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad, Antigua and all the other islands are but satellites of bigger, louder powers.

Australians shocked by severity of ban on swim coach

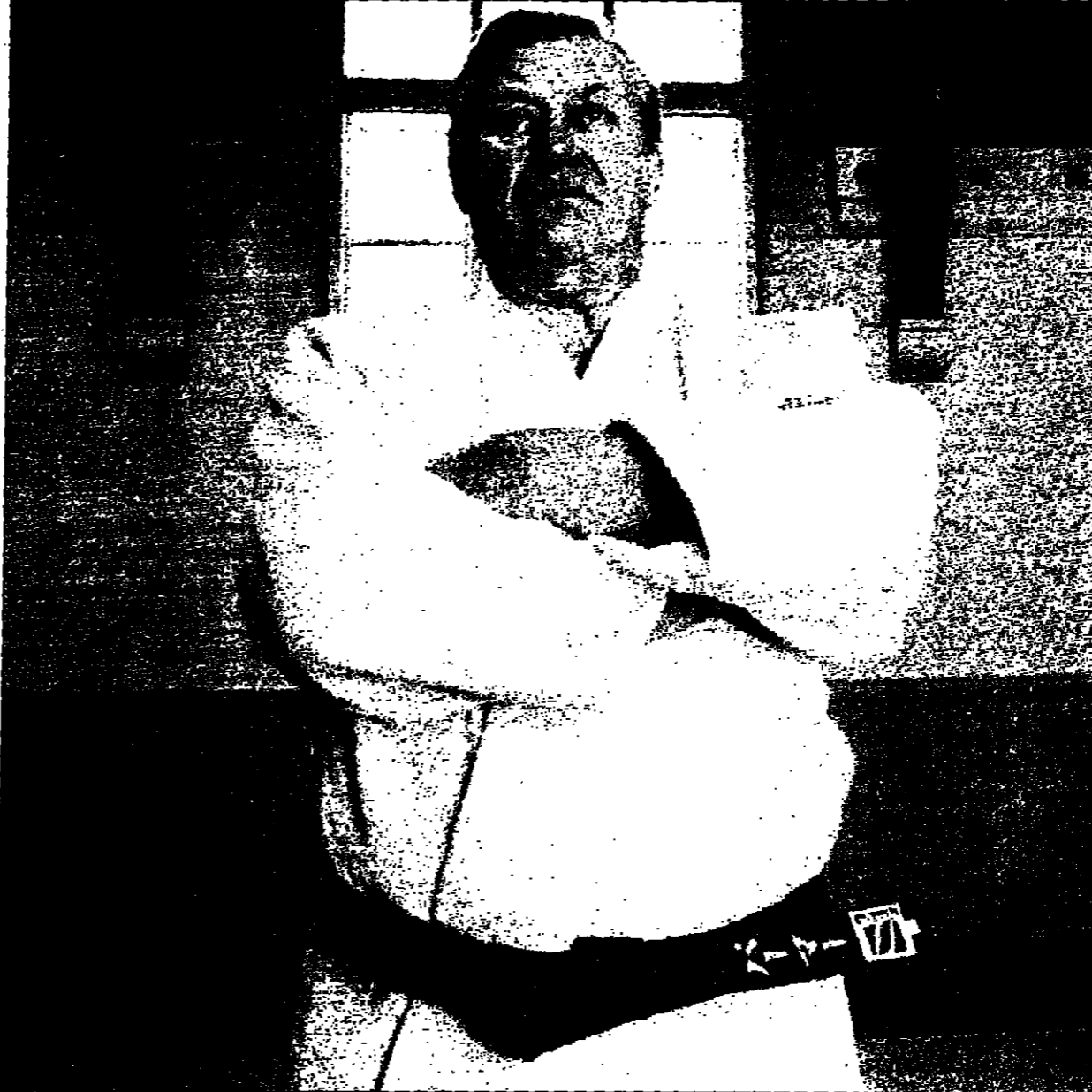
AUSTRALIAN swimming was in turmoil yesterday after it was announced that although Samantha Riley, the world's best breaststroke swimmer, had escaped punishment after testing positive for a banned painkiller, Scott Volkner, her coach, had been suspended "from all swimming activities" for two years by FINA, the world governing body.

First player to span both codes Devereux joins Sale without leaving Salford

JOHN DEVEREUX yesterday became the first player in rugby union's open era to span the divide between the rival codes. The former Wales and British Isles centre, who joined Widnes from Bridgend seven years ago, is to play union for Sale in the winter and league for Widnes in the summer.

Scotland stick with winning formula

TO LITTLE surprise, Scotland yesterday named the side which started the international against Wales last weekend to play England at Murrayfield on Saturday week. Enabling Scott Hastings to win his 61st cap and so equal the Scottish record held by his brother, Gavin, the selectors contemplated retaining Kenny Logan, who replaced the injured Craig Joiner, and recalling Darnley Cronin, but opted not to alter a winning team, albeit one which sputtered in Cardiff.



Palmer sports the distinctive red belt of the tenth dan in judo, a unique honour for a non-Japanese in the sport

Palmer joins ranks of judo's elite

For much of the past 30 years, Charles Palmer has been the "Godfather" of British sport. Little has occurred of national importance without his opinion being sought, his decision being required or his action being needed.

THE TIMES NOWLINE 391 333 568 For skiing information direct from resorts...

FOOTBALL: LONDON LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round, replay: Hyde v Liss...

Table with columns: Depth, Conditions, Run to, Weather, Last. Lists weather conditions for various locations like Andorra, Austria, France, etc.

Lawler proves point in impressive style ROD LAWLER was determined not to be written off as a one-hit wonder. Had he lost in the Sweater Shop International Open snooker tournament yesterday...

WORD-WATCHING: Answers from page 29: WORZEL GUMMIDGE (b) Scarecrow who stands in the Ten-acre Field at Scatterbrook Farm...







JUDO 41

BRITON NOTCHES UNIQUE HONOUR UNDER HIS BELT

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 41

DEVEREUX ALLOWED TO CHANGE CODE IN WINTER SALE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22 1996

Emphatic victory for India exposes the lack of strength in West Indies' batting

Honours go to Tendulkar in battle of greats

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GWALIOR (West Indies won toss): India (2pts) beat West Indies by five wickets

THE first glamour game of the World Cup did not live up to its demanding billing but it was instructive for all that.

Lara might have been un-lucky yesterday. He was out for only two when the umpire, Khizar Hayat, of Pakistan, adjudged there was bat as well as pad in his deflection down the leg side off Javagal Srinath.

Yesterday's evidence, however, suggests that, without Lara, West Indies no longer have the strength of batting to trouble the best.

a blameless pitch and, although the Indians stumbled twice in their reply, superior depth and conviction was decisive.

Lara has some catching up to do if he is to take the batting honours in this competition.

with 70 under the new Gwalior floodlights and, though it was blighted by one of them unbelievably spilled by Browne, the wicketkeeper - it was another innings of breathtaking quality.

Tendulkar plays strokes off the back foot that are the province of an elite few.

No 711 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-23.

- ACROSS: 2 Improvident optimist (Copperfield) (8) 6 Conquer, put down (6) 8 Manage to get (6) 9 Shows exuberance; Millais picture (7) 10 Of the nose (5) 12 Convenience store (6,4) 16 State of holding office (10) 18 (Ill-gotten) money (5) 20 Unlawful (7) 21 Unequaled (6) 22 No. of Israel tribes, of apostles (6) 23 Boston, Mad Hatter both had one (3,5)

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday.

SOLUTION TO NO 710 ACROSS: 1 Surprise 5 Slug 9 Admix 10 Shotgun 11 Bolshoi 12 Torch 13 Reprehend 18 Lapse 20 Horatio 22 Stoppap 23 Verus 24 Abed 25 Plangent

the game has no boundaries for him in the coming decade.

Crucially, however, India have other jewels in their collection and two of them are bowlers.

Richardson had won an important toss and declared before play that he considered 300 a reasonable target.

Thereafter, damage limitation was the best to which West Indies could aspire.

If West Indies were to have a chance, Curtly Ambrose had to strike early.

India betrayed signs of complacency when three wickets were foolishly sacrificed, the worst of them Tendulkar's run-out in a rare loss of understanding with his old school mate, Vinod Kambli.

Capriati returns the winning way

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JENNIFER CAPIRIATI'S much-anticipated return to the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour circuit produced a victory achieved without undue exertion in Essen, Germany, yesterday.

Capriati, 19, has endured a prolonged process of recovery from burn-out and the effects of drugs, but yesterday she made light of her troubles in casting aside the challenge of Kristie Boogert, of Holland, 6-1, 6-2 in only 51 minutes.

The American, who dropped out of competitive tennis after defeat in the first round of the 1993 US Open, made up for bouts of apparent nervousness and a tentative service by producing a succession of precise returns and double-handed backhand winners.

Boogert, who was the seventh seed at the Essen tournament and who is ranked No 32 in the world, was unable to find her rhythm at any stage.

Despite appearing tense during the match, Capriati smiled broadly and punched the air after concluding a triumphant comeback.

She accepted a wild-card invitation to play in the indoor event at Essen, where she now meets Barbara Schett, a 19-year-old Austrian ranked No 56 on the WTA list.



Lara, the West Indies batsman, walks dejectedly away after his controversial dismissal for only two runs while India celebrate yesterday

Reeve takes positive approach

DERMOT REEVE arrived in Pakistan last night in time to join up with England's cricket World Cup party on the eve of their match with Holland, in Peshawar, and admitted that he thought he had played his last game for England (Simon Wilde writes). Now he knows he has the chance, as the central all-rounder, to play a key part in his team's hopes of a successful campaign.

McGrath leaves FAI in quandary

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ONCE a model of success borne of consistency and continuity, the foundations of Irish football have suddenly begun to crumble.

McGrath informed the FAI of his plans just hours before its executive council was due to meet in Dublin last night to discuss the departure of the chief executive, Sean Connolly, six days ago.

McCarthy was appointed Ireland manager earlier this month, but within 24 hours of the appointment, the FAI president, Louis Kilcoyne, said that the former Ireland captain had not been his first choice to fill the post.

McCarthy was appointed Ireland manager earlier this month, but within 24 hours of the appointment, the FAI president, Louis Kilcoyne, said that the former Ireland captain had not been his first choice to fill the post.

Caledonian Thistle's Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final against Rangers has been switched to Dundee United's Tannadice ground, but Rangers will visit Inverness in 1996.

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By always putting the customer first Direct Line has become Britain's largest ever private motor insurer covering well over two million motorists.

Advertisement for Direct Line Motor Insurance with contact numbers and a logo.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'ister is th', 'anner o', 'victorious', 'campaign', 'One B...', 'not', 'White', 'model'.

# the Republicans' unity Sister is the planner of victorious campaign

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WHEN America's top television talk-show host wanted some swift reaction from the winners' enclosure in New Hampshire, it was Bay Buchanan who made herself immediately available to appear on *Larry King Live*. In measured tones, the sister of Pat Buchanan told the millions who watch Mr King's nightly spot that the stunning result had proved beyond doubt the widespread appeal of her brother's conservatism of the heart.

Behind the scenes, the image is a little different. Ms Buchanan is accused of micromanaging every detail and keeping both dissent and access to Pat himself to a minimum. She is very tough, according to close associates, and ideas other than her own are often ignored.



Bay Buchanan: "Pat wants me at the helm"

same about Angela "Bay" Buchanan, adviser and field general to the man of the moment. She is the only woman in charge of a presidential campaign in America and appears, to those on the outside at least, ill placed at the helm of a ship whose family, faith and country campaign seems entirely inhospitable to women such as herself.

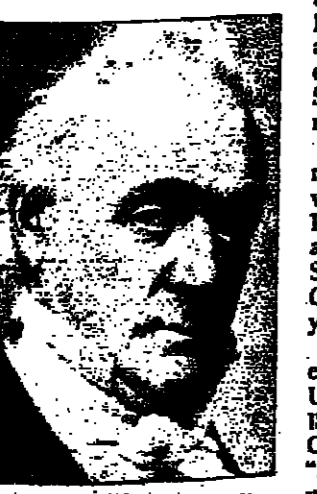
An obsession with politics started early and she worked closely with her brother on the Nixon campaign. In 1981, having worked as treasurer for his campaign, Ronald Reagan appointed her the youngest ever Treasurer of the United States. Six years ago she ran for California state treasurer, losing in the Republican primary. It was Bay Buchanan who insisted her brother should stand in 1992 and helped to orchestrate his notorious appearance at the Republican convention in Houston, where he unleashed his guns in the cultural war for America.

## One Buchanan not suitable as White House role model

BY LEYLA LINTON

AMERICA has already had a President Buchanan — a Democrat who presided over the collapse of the Union and accelerated the outbreak of Civil War in 1861. Like his namesake, James Buchanan was of Irish stock. The son of a merchant farmer, the fifteenth President of the United States was born in Pennsylvania.

Buchanan had a long career in public service. He was elected to the Senate in 1834 and unsuccessfully sought the presidential nomination in 1844, 1848 and 1852. He was eventually elected President by a narrow margin after convincing Southern planters, who controlled the Democratic Party, of his support for slavery.



James Buchanan: saw collapse of the Union

Buchanan retired discredited, but sought to support the Union cause until his death in 1868. Dr Mark Kaplanoff, of Cambridge University, said: "He was an ineffectual man who hastened the coming of the Civil War."



Snoop Doggy Dog, right, is hugged by his bodyguard, McKinley Lee, after both were acquitted of murder

## Mistakes help to clear rap singer in murder trial

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES prosecutors have lost another high-profile case with the acquittal of a street-tough black musician who was charged with murder. Snoop Doggy Dog, a rap singer whose songs are full of references to violence and drugs, was cleared of the murder in 1993 of a rival gang member.

but claimed that Woldemariam was armed and that they acted in self-defence. Prosecutors, arguing that Woldemariam was shot in the back, quoted from one of Snoop Doggy Dog's "gangsta rap" songs, *Murder Was the Case*. The song repeats the words: "Murder is the crime they committed".

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# EU agrees truce in Eta extradition dispute

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

EUROPEAN Union ministers headed a dispute between Spain and Belgium yesterday which was threatening the shaky edifice of the Schengen agreement, the pact on open borders among seven continental states.

The seven agreed to tighten co-operation on extradition to avoid a repetition of the dispute that flared this month when Belgium's highest court refused to send home two Basque separatists to face terrorism charges.

Spain, outraged over the sanctuary granted to guerrilla suspects by a partner state, had withdrawn its Brussels ambassador and threatened to pull out of judicial co-operation if its grievances were not answered. The Interior Ministers, meeting in The Hague, agreed to seek ways of modifying the article of the Schengen treaty covering extradition.

It was not clear, however, how similar cases could be avoided, given that the Schengen states would be unlikely to agree to override the sovereignty of national

courts in such sensitive matters as the extradition of suspects claiming political persecution. The dispute over extradition is just one area of discord in an agreement which is still far from fully operational almost a year after it came into effect.

In the meantime, Jon Idigoras, joint spokesman for the political wing of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, was detained yesterday



Idigoras questioned about Eta violence

morning in his home town of Amorebieta, near Bilbao. His detention comes two days after an estimated 350,000 people demonstrated in the Spanish capital against the current upsurge in violence during the run-up to a general election on March 3.

Señor Idigoras, 58, was arrested after his party, Herri Batasuna (Popular Unity), tried to distribute a video showing three masked and armed members of Eta (Basque Homeland and Liberty) explaining their policies. The Basque separatists knew they were flouting the law by sending the video to television stations for use during the free air time allotted for party political broadcasts.

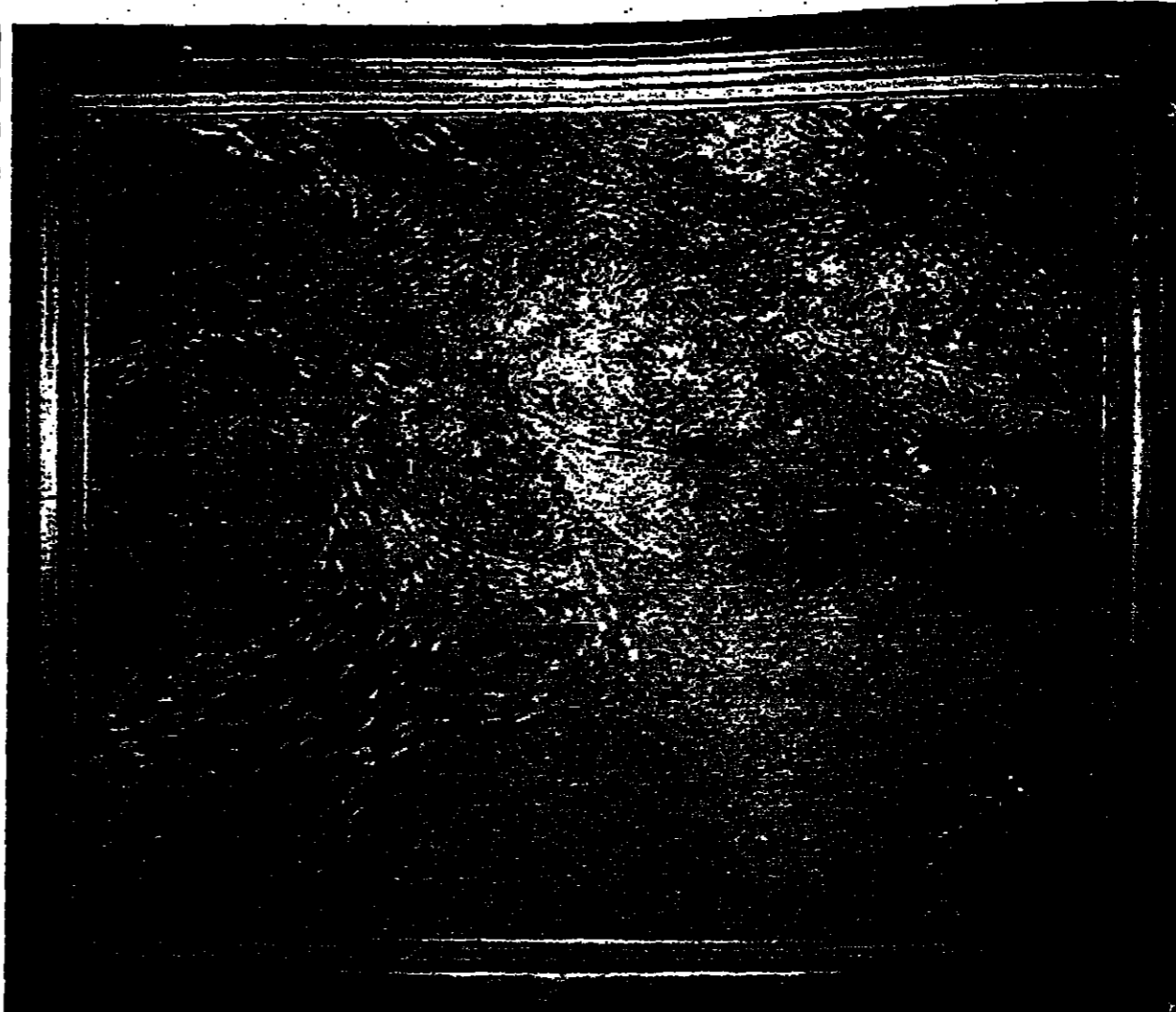
The Basque autonomous police force, the Ertzaintza, was due to transfer Señor Idigoras, whose craggy features are as well known to Spaniards as the beard of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, is known to Britons, to the national court in Madrid for questioning by Baltasar Garçon, an investi-

gating judge. Señor Idigoras faces charges of collaborating with "an armed group".

Herri Batasuna said yesterday: "The big words of Spanish political leaders are worthless. The huge demonstrations in Spanish cities are worthless. They are not going to bring any solution to the actual violent conflict. It is a political conflict that requires political solutions. There is a proposal on the table in an absolutely democratic text and the Government has this great challenge to confront."

Eta demands an amnesty for about 500 convicted guerrillas in Spanish jails, the "release" of the Spanish "forces of occupation" and the right to self-determination.

Political violence rather than issues such as unemployment is the main issue in the present Spanish election campaign. The separatists are opposed to a political settlement because only a minority of Basques, 16 per cent in the last regional elections, would vote for the independence that Eta and Herri Batasuna seek.



A legal test case over van Gogh's 'Jardin à Auvers' has ended in the state paying compensation for keeping it in France

## Brush with art world costs the State £19m

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN ART collector banned from selling his van Gogh painting abroad must be paid £145 million (£19 million) in compensation by the French State, the highest civil court ruled this week.

In 1989 Jacques Walter, now 87, attempted to sell his van Gogh masterpiece, *Jardin à Auvers*, on the international art market, but the Culture Ministry declared that the picture was a "national treasure" that could not leave French soil.

He sued the Government, claiming that the ban had forced him to sell the painting in France for a fraction of what it would have fetched on the inflated 1980s art market.

*Jardin à Auvers*, completed by van Gogh just days before he committed suicide in 1890, was bought by M Walter in New York in 1955 for the equivalent of £160,000.

By 1992, M Walter had run up large debts and put the painting up for auction. Bidding was restricted to French citizens and it was sold for £7 million, about one-sixth of its estimated value on the international market.

In 1994, a Paris court ordered the French State to pay £55.5 million to compensate the collector. An appeals court later reduced the award to £19 million.

Both the Government and M Walter appealed again. On Tuesday, the appeals court

decision was upheld by the Cour de Cassation, bringing the landmark case to an end. "Can the State, on the pretext of defending the national heritage, despoil the heritage of private citizens?" M Walter's lawyer demanded.

The *Jardin à Auvers* case has been closely watched by the French art world and this week's ruling is the first time the State has been forced to pay out such a claim.

Under a 1913 law, the State can prevent the export of artworks by classifying them as "historic treasures" and paying indemnity to the owners. The verdict in M Walter's favour is expected to prompt similar claims.

The case has also brought with it a whiff of corruption. Testifying in February 1994, M Walter's son, Jean-Jacques Walter, alleged that his father's lawyer had twice reported that an export licence could be obtained by bribing the Minister of Culture.

The younger M Walter claimed that Jack Lang, then Minister of Culture for most of the Mitterrand era, and François Léotard, who replaced him between 1986 and 1988, had demanded £5 million and £3 million respectively. Both have angrily denied the allegations.

Jean-Jacques Walter hailed the verdict as a "victory for citizens against the intrigues of the State".

## Blizzard brings snow to Majorca

By Edward Owen

THE holiday island of Majorca in the Mediterranean was blanketed by a rare snowstorm yesterday and the northern half of Spain was largely paralysed by blizzards which cut rail and road routes and closed most airports.

The Basque, Cantabrian and Asturias regions of Spain around the Bay of Biscay were worst hit. Mountain rescue teams were out in force and people stranded in refuges were advised by radio to stay put. Hundreds were marooned in vehicles and an estimated 20,000 villagers were cut off.

The Spanish Traffic Department reported that roads were impassable in 300 locations and that it had received more than 300,000 calls from the public seeking advice.

Weather forecast, page 22

## German shipyard stalls creditors

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

GERMANY'S largest shipbuilder, Bremer Vulkan, facing losses of more than a billion marks (almost £450 million), yesterday decided to stall bankruptcy proceedings.

The company opted to file for protection from creditors while it tries to work out a survival deal and renegotiate credit facilities. Commentators remained sceptical about the firm's future and said they doubted that the 23,000 jobs could be saved.

Günter Restorff, the Economics Minister, said he had contacted European Union officials in Brussels about a rescue deal. However, a bleak picture was painted by Johannes Ludwig, State Secretary in the Economics Ministry, who said anyone who believed Vulkan could be saved was "living in cloud-cuckoo-land".

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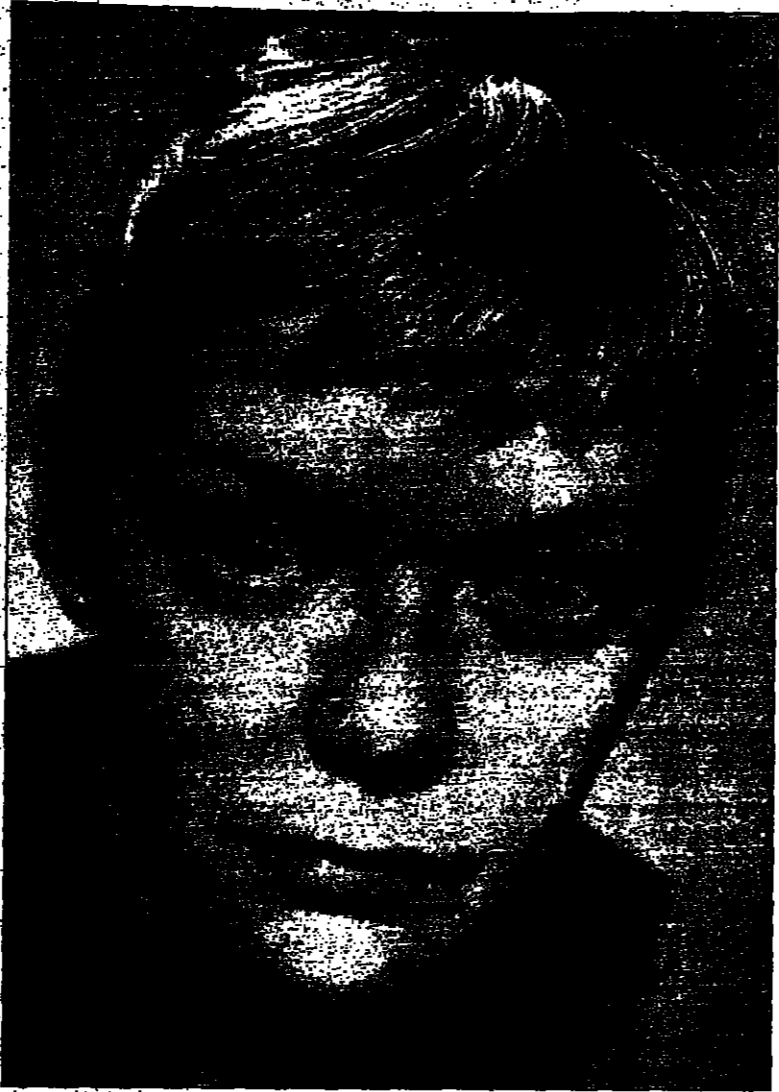
Defining marriages

OBITUARIES

BRENDA BRUCE

Brenda Bruce, OBE, actress, died on February 19 aged 76. She was born on July 7, 1919

THE Evening Standard once ran a bizarre competition. "Is this the plainest face on the English stage?"



Throughout her life Bruce proved herself capable of turning the tables on fate and triumphing over the odds.

Brenda Bruce started acting very young. By the age of three she had already informed her mother that she was going to be a fairy

company. Abandoning musicals along with the fragments of an unpromising academic career she fled to Birmingham for three years.

filmed in a studio replica of her Bloomsbury flat. Bruce also wrote a weekly column based on events surrounding the upbringing of her adopted twin girls

success as Elizabeth Spriggs in The Merry Wives of Windsor, a part to which she brought all her spiced sense of humour

However, alongside Bruce's professional success with the RSC ran her first private tragedy

In 1970 she married a second time a fellow RSC actor Clem McCallin

Bruce's suffering gave her a tremendous vulnerability on stage and in 1987 when she played in a double bill of Arnold Wesker's Yardale and What-ever Happened to Betty Lemon

Her last performance was at the Donmar Warehouse in 1993 where she played a lonely widow

In her later years Bruce worked with understatement commitment for both Asthma Research and Amnesty International

TORU TAKEMITSU

Toru Takemitsu, Japanese composer, died from cancer on February 20 aged 65. He was born in Tokyo on October 8, 1930



FOR more than three decades Toru Takemitsu was the leader of a new music in Japan

His own feeling, as revealed in his music and in verbal comments, seems to have been that his tradition of choice was French

He had little musical education. A month after he was born his family moved to China

He recalled how a wartime propaganda film, showing the sinking of the Prince of Wales, had the contrary effect

In December 1950 he had his first public performance, when his piano piece Lento for Two was played

secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Josef Beck.

LUDWIK LUBIENSKI

Ludwik Lubinski, Chief of the wartime Polish Military Mission in Gibraltar, died in London on January 22 aged 83. He was born on May 6, 1912.

secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Josef Beck.

On the invasion of Poland by Germany on September 1, 1939, he acted as liaison officer between Colonel Beck and the Polish High Command

After the French defeat Lubinski was one of some 30,000 Polish soldiers and airmen who managed to evade capture again and reach the haven of Britain

Lubinski was born on his family estate at Kazimierz Wielka near Cracow

SIMON DYER

Simon Dyer, CBE, Director General of the AA, died from cancer on February 17 aged 56. He was born on October 19, 1939.

SIMON DYER was Director General of the Automobile Association for the past nine years, during a period of healthy expansion for the association

heads of industry who was brought in from outside to turn a business round

The AA's profile increased substantially during his period in office. First, there were several successful advertising campaigns

need a mechanic or own a car — those for instance, who required a plumber in the middle of the night

The son of a major-general, Simon Dyer was born in Winchester but brought up during the war in India

Dyer liked tennis, skiing and gardening when he was particularly proud when he won first prize for tomatoes at the Kew Flower Show

THE CAMPAIGN IN OUDE.

(From Our Special Correspondent.) CAMP NEAR BRANKEE, Jan. 3

It is a most difficult matter to organize an expedition in the night in an unknown country. One man may make his way towards a certain point guided by local knowledge

ON THIS DAY

February 22, 1859

Night marches in all ages have provided a test of discipline. This one, the report concludes, reached its destination ahead of time, elephants and all.

elephants, it was arranged that one half of the force should be mounted — five on each of these unwieldy locomotives

was to be seen, save the glare of watch-fires: but soon there appeared before us, like a light in some wintry sea, one steady flame



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Defining marriages





EDUCATION 33  
David Blunkett on Labour's vision of lifelong learning



ARTS 29-31  
Villains bring out the gags in a zany new play



SPORT 35-40  
Watford double act back in the old routine

TELEVISION AND RADIO  
Pages 38-39

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23 1996

## ICI looks at share buybacks and acquisitions



ICI, the cash-rich chemicals group, is looking at the idea of share buybacks as part of a drive to make better use of its huge balance sheet. Yesterday, it announced a near doubling of pre-tax profits from £54 million to £95 million for the year after a resilient performance in a fourth quarter that was marred by the effect of customer destocking and lower prices for bulk chemicals.

ICI came through the year cash positive in spite of a 72 per cent increase in capital expenditure to £64 million, leaving the group with net debt of £99 million, a balance sheet gearing ratio of only 2 per cent.

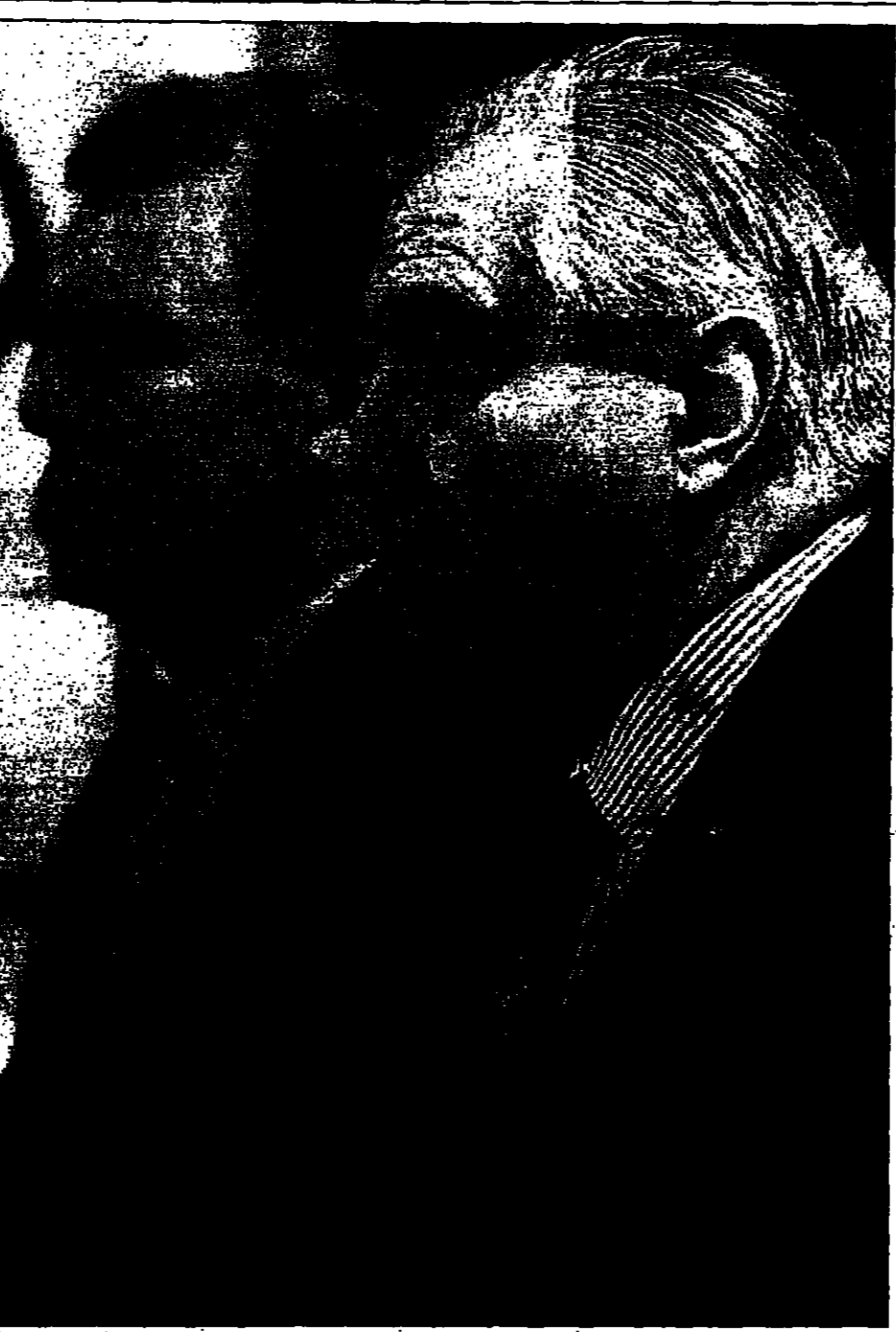
ICI raised its revenues 12 per cent to £10.3 billion during 1995, with an 8 per cent contribution from higher selling prices in all businesses. Volume growth accounted for 5 per cent and acquisitions 1 per cent of the total. Sir Ronald Hampe, chairman, said that weaker bulk chemical prices would have an adverse impact, but he expected world demand to pick up after a slow start to the year. A dividend of 30p is being paid for the full year, up from 27.5p and covered 2.6 times by earnings.

Analysts said that the plans by ICI to reshape its business and to enhance shareholder value were positive and could trigger a wider reassessment of the group's profit profile, dividend policy, and market rating.

## Gas chief sets up clash with regulator

BRITISH GAS put itself on a collision course with the industry regulator yesterday by declaring that the two sides were so opposed over the price review for TransCo, its pipeline business, that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission seemed inevitable.

Richard Giordano, its chairman, said Ofgas was seeking to impose controls with a toughness that reflected the cash-generation maturity of the business, and that later down the line British Gas could seek relaxation of those curbs as its capital expenditure demands increased.



Gas mains: Richard Giordano, chairman, right, with Cedric Brown, chief executive, yesterday

## Rentokil rethink fails to tempt BET

BET, the business service company, said last night that it had rejected a new approach from Rentokil to buy part of the company.

## Carlton pulls back from launching bid for MAI

CARLTON Communications' tentative plan to launch a £1.5 billion-plus rival bid for MAI, the spivier ITV company which plans to merge with United News & Media, owners of the Express newspapers, was effectively aborted yesterday.

## Industry is still in the doldrums, says CBI

PROSPECTS of a further cut in interest rates remain high today as industry's order books continue to fall and business leaders cast doubt on the Government's growth forecast, even though new figures yesterday showed a slight improvement in growth overall.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES  
FT-SE 100 3740.0 (+14.4)  
Yield 3.22%  
FT-SE All share 1842.98 (+6.63)  
Nikkei 20240.94 (+31.29)  
New York 5547.76 (+31.78)  
Dow Jones 5547.76 (+31.78)  
S&P Composite 682.35 (+4.25)\*

US RATE  
Federal Funds 5.25% (5.25%)  
Long Bond 95% (95.14)  
Yield 6.37%\* (6.37%)

LONDON MONEY  
3-mth Interbank 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)  
Libra long gilt future (Mar) 107 1/2% (107 1/2%)

STERLING  
New York 1.5430\* (1.5440)  
London 1.5429 (1.5429)  
DM 2.2270 (2.2414)  
FF 7.7135 (7.7230)  
SF 1.4223 (1.4256)  
Yen 161.83 (162.35)  
£ Index 83.6 (83.7)

DOLLAR  
London 1.4507\* (1.4492)  
DM 4.9330\* (4.9930)  
FF 1.1615\* (1.1635)  
Yen 104.88\* (104.90)  
£ Index 95.1 (95.3)  
Tokyo close Yen 105.11

NORTH SEA OIL  
Brent 15-day (May) \$17.50 (\$17.55)

BOND  
London close \$400.55 (\$397.15)  
\* denotes midday trading price

## Californian regulators accuse Lloyd's

CALIFORNIA regulators are accusing Lloyd's of London of defrauding more than 500 American names, who are being asked to stump up more than \$500 million to meet losses incurred as a result of their participation in the world's largest insurance market.

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هكذا من الرجل

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Imperial sale reports revive Hanson shares



Noel Jarvis of Courtauld Textiles, 8p higher

HANSON clawed back some of its recent losses amid mounting speculation that it is close to agreeing terms over the sale of its Imperial Tobacco division.

boards advertising group, jumped 1p to 525p. Panmure Gordon, the broker, is expected to publish a buy recommendation later today.

A drop in full year profits and further controversy over its directors' pay left British Gas nursing a fall of 3 1/2p at 236 1/2p.

Lord Hanson's plans to split the group into four received a lukewarm reception from the City. Under the demerger plan, the chemical, energy, tobacco and building materials divisions would be split into four separate companies with their own management.

down on the day at 419p. It briefly touched 470p after a deal would also be to solve some of BAT's tax problems.

Richard Giordano, chairman, only added to the gloom by warning that he expects the group to be referred to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission once Ogas, the industry regulator, publishes its Transco review in the spring.

The speculation arose following heavy turnover of Hanson's American Depository Receipts overnight on Wall Street. The equivalent of 35 million shares changed hands, in addition to the 25 million traded in London yesterday. Hanson put on 8 1/2p, to end at 190 1/2p.

bank facility and is on the lookout for a new financial adviser. Scottish Television was down 13p at 696p and HTV Group 7p off at 386p.

A disappointing second-half performance took its toll on full-year figures from Courtauld Textiles, where Noel Jarvis is chief executive. But the £7 million slide in pre-tax profits to £40 million was no worse than the market had envisaged and the shares finished 8p better at 408p.

Elsewhere, it was another difficult day for both traders and investors. Shares in London experienced another hesitant start despite the strong performance by the Dow Jones average overnight in the US.

following an apparent change of tack by Rentokil, which has offered £1.8 billion. Clive Thompson, the Rentokil chief executive, has indicated that he would be willing to sit round the table and discuss the acquisition of a large part of BE's business instead.

Brokers reported switching out of gilts and into German bunds. The only sector to resist the downward pull was index-linked, where prices at the longer end climbed 3 1/2p.

The move by the Nationwide building society to cut its mortgage rate for its million borrowers sparked fears of a price war which left the other lenders nursing losses on the day.

More O'Ferrall, the bill-details of a proposed £2.9 billion merger with United News & Media, publisher of the Daily Express.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £16 to £99, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2005 eased three ticks to £103 1/2.

MAI, the Anglia and Meridian Television group, spent a volatile session, ending 17p

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for location (New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London) and values for various indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues such as BZW Eq (50m) A, Ballymore, Clubhaus 75, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues such as Ashred n/p (152), BR Borneo n/p (310), etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes in share prices, including Balcorn, Cortec, ADT, etc.

ICI's asset formula

WITH scores of management consultants prowling around ICI's Millbank headquarters, it is scarcely surprising that the bosses are now seducing shareholders with talk of the "value gap initiative".

rely on prices to deliver its target rate of return. Yesterday, the company acknowledged that it was making inefficient use of its assets and posed itself the challenge of gearing the balance sheet more aggressively.

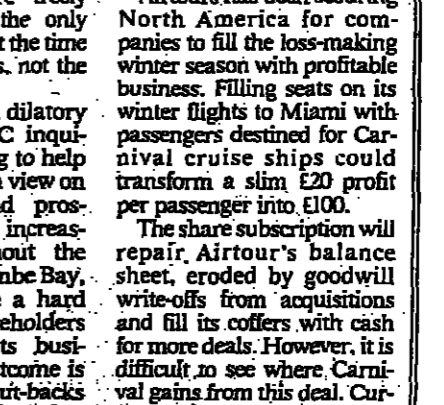
Price recovery gave ICI a good year, but yesterday's figures also gave credence to the company's claim that streamlining the product lines has left it less exposed to the chemicals cycle.

If it was easy to find businesses or projects capable of delivering such growth, ICI would not now be blushing about its inefficient use of capital.

Rank

DEMERGER is the fashion and it was inevitable that questions would be asked about Rank Organisation.

NEW RANKING



British Gas

BRITISH GAS is flailing about looking for a weapon with which to strike its enemies and has found the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Airtours

IF CARNIVAL Corporation is just interested in selling more cruise holidays in the UK it could have saved itself £100 million.

Table with columns for Commodity Exchange, COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE etc.

Table with columns for LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, Gold, Silver, Platinum etc.

Table with columns for LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES, FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250 etc.

Table with columns for DOLLAR RATES, Australia, Belgium, Canada etc.

Table with columns for WALL STREET, AXP, AMER, AMER etc.



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Single-market wrangles bode ill for monetary union

Dreams of a new currency leave trade neglected, says Janet Bush

NPI post for Hogg

NUMBER cruncher Sarah Hogg, director of London Economics, has at last given into desperate pleas from pension provider NPI to join them as a non-executive director...

Toon to City

SIR John Hall, who becomes a non-executive director of the Bank of England on March 1, may have wondered just where he was yesterday while being shown around NatWest Markets' trading floor...

It is a continent-sized case of the chicken and the egg. Is the single European market the necessary prerequisite for monetary union? Or is an effective monetary union necessary for successful implementation of the single market?

The importance of the single market, embodying the four freedoms of movement in goods, services, labour and capital, is being overlooked in the scramble for monetary union...



While Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl build monetary union, the realities of global competition bear down on them

not at all bad going, but Euro-cynics believe that the single market is running into trouble. Stalled and failing negotiations in a number of areas highlight the national defensive, self-interest, ego and ideological divides that run throughout Europe...

workers, one of the four pillars of the single market. There have been seven years of deadlock on liberalising Europe's energy markets...

Europe's aim of using economies of scale within the continent to compete more successfully in the world is in danger of falling as European partners jockey for position among themselves.

project in the first place, would still be there, ever more threatening. Surely European governments would see sense and get their act together, with or without monetary union?

Dirigism and national interest are elevated above the good of Europe

this process lacks a convenient vagueness of vision. Professor Hughes Hallett notes that the attitude towards monetary union, the most fundamental and irreversible change in how Europe runs itself...

French people of a universal standard of service. Far from moving towards a level playing field for Europe's airline businesses, Neil Knock, commissioner for transport...

However, is it not conceivable - even probable - that the single market would continue to be built, even if the artificial political timetable for monetary union were postponed or shelved?

Angry Japanese home in on big loan scandal

Peregrine Hodson reports on demands for radical finance ministry reforms

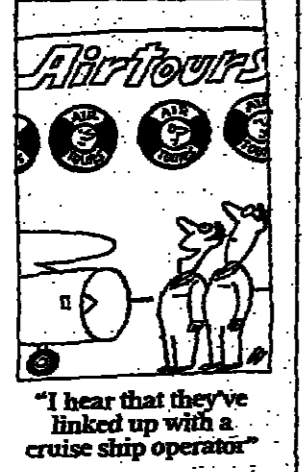
Police in riot gear stand guard outside the finance ministry in Tokyo. Reinforcements wait in buses nearby. The MoF, the single most powerful institution in Japan, architect of the country's development from postwar poverty to economic superpower...

Y10,000 yen for every taxpayer in Japan. Many believe the final cost will be double that. Last December, amid rumours of the loan problem, foreign bankers demanded extra interest on Japanese banks' borrowings...

Rumours proliferate of crime syndicate involvement

The Japanese Government's decision to use Y685 billion (£4.6 billion) of taxpayers' money to liquidate a group of seven housing loan corporations known as jusen...

Miyawaki believes the nation's financial institutions are severely compromised by yakuza influence. During the bubble economy, the yakuza co-opted banking officials...



"I hear that they've linked up with a cruise ship operator"

Toast to cruise

SIMON KESWICK has at last found a reward for Hongkong Land's so-far disastrous stake in Trafalgar House, the cruise and engineering conglomerate.

Napoleon call

TOUCHY lot, us English. At the first European Growth Company conference at Hotel George V, Paris, the 300-odd delegates yesterday found themselves split between two rooms...

Work in the public sector accounts for high earnings

From Mr Jonathan Chaytor. As a chartered accountant in a small practice in the little market town of Ormskirk, I think they have been very well rewarded and they would not have achieved such earnings other than by work in the public sector...

limited liability must also be questioned. If they did the work properly in the first place they would have nothing to fear. With earnings as reported I cannot believe that the present litigation outstanding (only a small amount of which will go against them) will only cause a minor ripple in their cashflow...

Names settling for best offer From Mr Dennis Franklin and others. Sir, I cannot see how Robert Millet can say that Lloyd's names are set to reject the settlement offer (February 13). Many have not yet seen the document...

Gas pay trap From Mr F Paul Taylor. Sir, British Gas suppliers may win both ways (Letters, February 14) but it is we, the consumers, who, one way or another, will eventually pay twice for this chaos...

Advertisement for Quester VCT plc. Includes text: 'This advertisement is issued in compliance with the regulations of the London Stock Exchange Limited...', 'QUESTER VCT plc', 'OFFERS FOR SUBSCRIPTION', 'UP TO 18,000,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF 5p EACH AT 100p PER SHARE PAYABLE IN FULL ON APPLICATION', 'Sponsored by BEESON GREGORY LIMITED', and a table of share details.

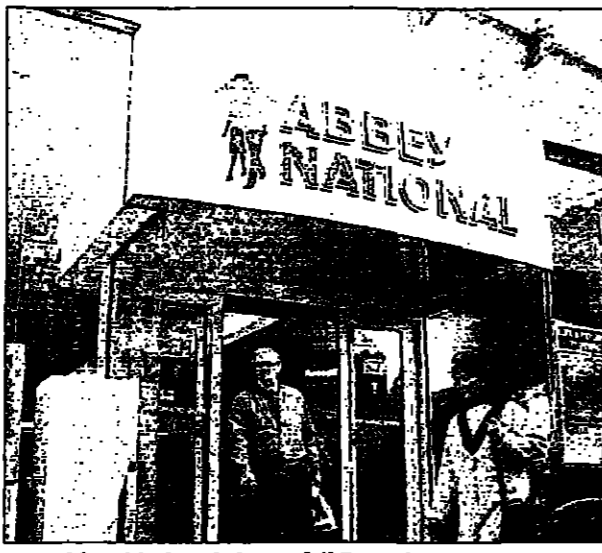
STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan gives shares a push with rates forecast

AN OPENING surge on Wall Street in both equities and US Treasury bonds helped London to shake off its earlier blues...



Abbey National shares fell 7p on large turnover

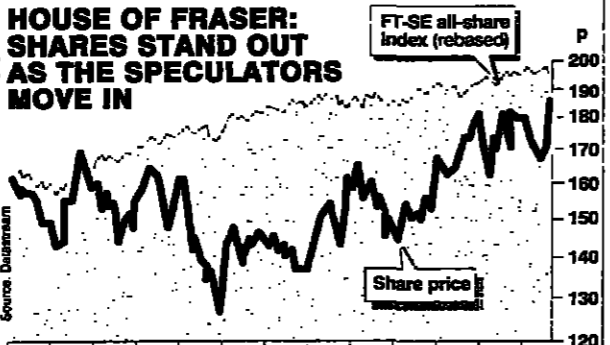
sort out first. A profits warning sent shares of Wagon Industrial tumbling 32p to 389p...

overseas operations accounted for 61 per cent of overall operating results. CU's performance focused attention on the rest of the insurance sector...

Tuesday's profits news and this week's £460 million acquisition of Gartmore, stood out with a rise of 17p to 70p...

Abbey National fell 7p to 592p as a large line of shares went through the market. SBC Warburg, the broker, placed ten million as part of a bought deal...

change also firmed up to 246p, while among the life companies. London & Manchester rose 12p to 392p...



HOUSE OF FRASER: SHARES STAND OUT AS THE SPECULATORS MOVE IN

MAJOR INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Value, Change. Includes New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various European indices.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table with columns: Company, Shares, Price. Includes BTZ Eq (Brmd) A, Ballymore, Clubhaus (75), etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table with columns: Company, Shares, Price. Includes Ashland n/p (153), Br Borneo n/p (310), etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table with columns: Company, Shares, Price. Includes RISES: Eve Group, Flete, House of Fraser, etc.

Closing Prices Page 29

Chemists mix love potions

IN THE FEBRUARY of a leap year, Lloyds Chemists' shareholders have the pleasant dilemma of choosing between two rival suitors.

CU GOOD profits from life insurance and from overseas managed to cheer investors in Commercial Union who were worried about the gloom that is afflicting composite insurers.

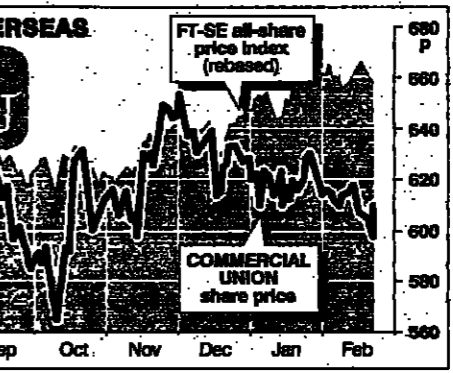
Elf Aquitaine IT IS the fashion for oil companies to display their financial targets and yesterday Elf said it expected to achieve a 10 per cent return on equity by 1998.

My Kinda Town WITH new restaurants opening on every corner, results from My Kinda Town were a useful reminder that the trade is vulnerable to shocks.

cent. but with the cost of capital in the oil industry of about 12 per cent. It is not an impressive target, even less so when other major oil companies are achieving 15 per cent.

and Lloyds Chemists, but Gehe has cast doubt on UniChem's claim that most of the gains - reckoned to be £25 million - would come in the first year.

still experiencing weak underlying margins. Meanwhile CU has demonstrated that it has played the insurance cycle well in the UK with only a slight reduction in profit in spite of increased competition and a rise in claims from burst pipes.



investors there are less exposed than hoteliers. The argument suggests that after a brief interval, suburbanites will not be deterred from their night on the town.

With huge fitting-out costs, investors need to be confident that the theme will last more than five years and My Kinda Town is sensibly pouring capital into the radio restaurant. In the end, the landlords may be the big winners in the restaurant crisis.

Table: LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE. Lists prices for COCOA, RUBBER, WHITE SUGAR, etc.

Table: COMMODITIES - CRUDE OILS. Lists prices for Brent Physical, Brent 15 day, etc.

Table: LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES. Lists prices for FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, etc.

Table: DOLLAR RATES. Lists exchange rates for Australia, Belgium, Denmark, etc.

Table: OTHER STERLING. Lists rates for Argentina peso, Australian dollar, etc.

Table: MEAT & LIVESTOCK. Lists prices for various meats and livestock.

Table: LONDON LIME EXCHANGE. Lists prices for various lime products.

Table: MONEY RATES (%). Lists interest rates for various currencies.

Table: FT-SE VOLUMES. Lists trading volumes for various stocks.

Table: LIFE OPTIONS. Lists various life insurance options.

Table: LONDON METAL EXCHANGE. Lists prices for various metals.

Table: EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%). Lists interest rates for European deposits.

Table: GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS. Lists prices for gold and other precious metals.

Table: STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Lists sterling spot and forward rates.

Table: GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (BRIT & CO). Lists prices for gold and silver.

Table: STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Lists sterling spot and forward rates.

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THEATRE

Whatever kind of show it may be, the new *Gulp Fiction* is undeniably good fun for the audience



OPERA

English Touring Opera's latest annual tour gets off to a shaky start with a routine version of *Rigoletto*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

Lorin Maazel enjoys himself as the Pittsburgh Symphony brings its 100th birthday tour to London



TOMORROW

Now that she's selling more records, more wants to work with — and talk to — Celine Dion

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a plotless, pointless, joyously goofy spoof

# Reservoir cats are just a hoot

This cheerful burbling, uncategory-able show begins with two men with convict arrows on their white tunics emerging from what we are told is Pentonville prison. They are twins; one is called Reggie and one Ronnie; they have been serving a longish stretch for bank robbery. But there the resemblances to the East End's most celebrated twosome end. For no evident reason, these brothers' surname is Diss. They are also black and as droll as you might have predicted, given that both are veterans of that excellent revue troupe, the Fosse.

**Gulp Fiction**  
Theatre Royal,  
Stratford East

say, really riles them. That is frustration in romance. Only one thing could divide them. That is if one were to steal the other's woman.

This duly occurs, giving the evening such vestigial shape and plot as it possesses. At any rate, Ron is asked for a date by Reg's seductive girlfriend. But this leads to nothing worse than transitory ructions in the last reel. The main object is to allow Gee to dress up first in a black mini-skirt, then in a wiggling, mincing impersonation of a huffy broad. Indeed, you might say that the real object of the evening is to allow both men to launch into as many good-humoured spoofs as time for quick changes of costume permits.

Though Trish Cooke, the author and director, has called her two-hander *Gulp Fiction*, the connection with Quentin Tarantino is even more precarious. It consists of nothing more than giving Robbie Gee's Reggie and Eddie Nestor's Ronnie the rather sinister dark suits that the hoods wear in *Reservoir Dogs*. No ears are cut off, no abdomens shot to smithereens. These villains' idea of violence is mainly to take the pins out of rude jokes and lob them at each other with great chorales of pleasure.

Your face has so many bumps, a blind man could read it. "You're so stupid, you think black consciousness is a group that stays awake all night." "You're so ugly that if I took you to a pet shop, they'd put you in the window." The standard of humour is not too high, nor meant to be, for the Diss twins are a goofy, infantile duo. Only one thing, they

Nestor gives us the Diss mother, a curvy soul whose living room is as pink and garish as the dress she wears when she goes out on the razzle. Gee ripostes with her over-age lover, an army chef who clanks around in medals looking like a Jamaican Monty. When the action switches from a grotty housing estate to a mock-Tudor pub called the Duck and Dive, both performers reappear in gold lamé, purple lapels and silver-ginger toupees, playing a couple of inept



Gays and drolls: Robbie Gee and Eddie Nestor play the gangsters armed with gags

singers called Stratford and Avon.

With Felix Cross banging away on the synthesizers and plenty of ebullient give-and-take with the audience, this is undeniably good fun. There may be no logical reason for Gee and Nestor to do anything they do, but that does not seem

to matter at the time. Both are gifted comedians who could simply stand on their heads and pull funny faces for half an hour, and the laughter would probably keep coming.

Is it grudging to wish that: a) their material was bolder and more inventive, and b) that it was less dependent on

Afro-Caribbean references? Probably. The show is aimed not at white critics driving in from west London, but at people who really know their Jamaica from their Trinidad. The reaction on the first night made it clear that the cast's rapport with its target audience is spot-on.

# Set on the wrong course from the start

OPERA  
**Rigoletto/Werther**  
Sadler's Wells

ENGLISH Touring Opera's seventeenth annual tour got off to a shaky start on Tuesday at Sadler's Wells. *Rigoletto* may be one of the most familiar and popular works in the repertory, but in a good performance, its bleakness should still shock, the boldness of Verdi's assault on convention still thrill. ETO's new version rarely rises above the routine.

Stephen Medcalf, the company's director of productions, can usually be relied on to make efficient, unfussy use of whatever resources are to hand. Here, however, his efforts are hampered by Charles Edwards's ugly, inflexible set, a clutter of crumbling masonry and peeling walls, in the midst of which perches that dreariest of pseudo-Expressionist clichés: a windowless, wonky boxroom. It looks as though a furniture van has crashed backwards onto the stage and lost a wheel; and it cramps and constrains the singers.

In the circumstances, it was hardly surprising if the cast did less than justice to some of opera's most complex, ambivalent characters. Glenville Hargreaves's intense *Rigoletto* was unfocused in his anguish, while Jeffrey Stewart was a virile but undisciplined Duke. Only Gail Pearson's radiant, clear-toned *Gilda* quickened the pulse.

Martin André in the pit struggled to supply the dramatic shape that the staging lacked. Reduced orchestral forces (26 players in all) meant that tragic grandeur was never an option, but compensating gains in clarity and intimacy seemed few and far between.

On Wednesday, before a smaller audience, Massenet's *Werther* fared better. Andrew Greenwood's reading of the (reorchestrated) score was clearly defined and nicely paced, the ebb and flow of passion and remorse well caught.

Geraint Dodd and Christine Botes were a vivid pair of guilty lovers: she a darkly passionate, earthy Charlotte; he combining ardour with grace in the daunting, high-flying title role. Roderick Williams's Albert was finely nuanced and firmly sung. Matthew Hargreaves (a dignified Magistrate) and Maureen Braithwaite (a bright, appealing Sophie) stood out in an impressively solid supporting cast.

da Holden, who also translated *Rigoletto* is heard to good effect, and at least the singers have room to move.

Geraint Dodd and Christine Botes were a vivid pair of guilty lovers: she a darkly passionate, earthy Charlotte; he combining ardour with grace in the daunting, high-flying title role. Roderick Williams's Albert was finely nuanced and firmly sung. Matthew Hargreaves (a dignified Magistrate) and Maureen Braithwaite (a bright, appealing Sophie) stood out in an impressively solid supporting cast.

IAN BRUNSKILL  
DONALD COOPER



Complex characters: Gail Pearson as *Gilda*, Glenville Hargreaves as *Rigoletto*, in Stephen Medcalf's staging

Royal National Theatre

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ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION SHARON STONE WINNER GOLDEN GLOBE SHARON STONE

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## Over-familiarity breeds confusion

ORCHESTRAL tours can be a mixed blessing. On the one hand, the players have the opportunity to familiarise themselves intimately with the selected works and give confident, well-rehearsed performances. On the other hand, by the far-end of the tour, the pieces are never as fresh as they once were, for either players or conductor.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's centennial European tour reached its climax at the Festival Hall on Wednesday night, with its outgoing music director Lorin Maazel putting the ensemble once again through its paces in Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra* and accompanying the young Lithuanian-born player, Julian Rachlin, in Sibelius's Violin Concerto in D minor.

Repeated performances seem to have taken their toll on Rachlin. He plays with as much technical assurance as ever, and his account is by no means lacking in character or motivation. But his attempts to inject spontaneity now lead him to pull about the rhythms of his unaccompanied solos in the most un-Sibelian way. He is undoubtedly a highly talented player — he brings a wide variety of tonal expression to the central Adagio and effortless virtuosity to the finale — but now the tour is over, he would do well to overhaul his reading of the concerto with a view to separating introspection from affection.

The Festival Hall is no Heinz Hall — the luxuriously refurbished auditorium the Pittsburghers have at home — and it may have been that they were still getting their bearings in Sibelius's *Finlandia*. At any rate it sounded unconvincingly crude and banal.

By the end of the concert, however, they were fully in their stride and gave a virtuoso performance of Bartók's orchestral showpiece. If once in a while there was a feeling of an interpretation going through the motions, things looked up dramatically in the "Intermezzo Interrotto", where the cantabile melody introduced by the violas had an ideally intuitive feel. The Presto finale was launched in style and the concerto brought to a rousing conclusion.

CONCERT  
**Pittsburgh SO/Maazel**  
Festival Hall

Rather surprisingly, for such a cerebral musician, Maazel seemed to enjoy himself most in the three encores. The first two, a pair of Brahms Hungarian Dances, were initiated with great showmanship, and all were delivered with unflagging energy.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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MAX BEN JONSON, RAY BONDY, HALL  
MAX BEN JONSON, RAY BONDY, HALL





POP 3

Alanis Morissette doesn't need dancing girls or supplicant children. She has plenty of talent to rely on



POP 4

An embarrassment of riches on a terrific new album by Joan Osborne, the woman who's got it all

THE POP ARTS



POP 5

A valiant effort from Iggy Pop on his latest, *Naughty Little Doggie*, but it's strictly one for the diehards



POP 6

Marc Almond makes his comeback with *Fantastic Star*, an album of grandeur and scope

Flashing the peace-sign

David Sinclair is pleased to report that Alanis Morissette is no jagged little pill



Alanis Morissette is the international newcomer of the year, and she has the Brit to prove it

Amid all the rumpus of the Brit Awards last Monday, one performance stood out for its simple, heartfelt conviction. Alanis Morissette, the winner of the trophy for Best International Newcomer, sang *Hand in my Pocket* without the aid of dancing girls, supplicant children or aerial hoists. Her energetic performance was all the more impressive for that lack of pretension and, while Morissette says she harbours "mixed-emotions" about receiving awards, she nevertheless relished the opportunity to play in front of the powerbrokers of the British music business.

"I love playing for audiences that have never heard of me. There's a certain satisfaction that I get from communicating with people for the first time," she says. On the face of it, this might seem a little ingenuous. Eight months after its release, her album, *Jagged Little Pill*, remains in the Top Five in America, where she has been nominated for six Grammys, the album has sold five million copies and this week went back to No 1. Few people who take even a passing interest in this kind of thing can be unaware of who she is.

Still, the 21-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter is one of the freshest faces to join the top table of pop. Predictably, she has been allocated a niche alongside various other feisty, female performers, a link, perhaps, between the sometimes abusive assertiveness of Liz Phair and the soft-rock narrative style of Sheryl Crow.

One song in particular has led to a rash of "angry young woman" headlines. *You Oughta Know* is an elegantly turned essay in uncontained rage — "Every time I scratch my nails down someone else's back/I hope you feel it... can you feel it?" — and initially had the music press referring to her "barbed and spiteful brand of pop".

The reality is not so clear-cut. For a start, there are just as many gentle and philosophical songs on *Jagged Little Pill*, such as the current single,

*You Learn*, and the wildly optimistic *Head Over Feet*. And, in person, she is the voice of sweet reason itself.

As with all her songs, *You Oughta Know* stems from personal experience. It was addressed to a real person. "One day I got off the phone from talking to him and just wrote down exactly what I felt," she says. "But I wrote it for the sake of my own release, not as a way of getting revenge on him. Actually, he's a sweetheart. And secretly, now, I thank him for ending the

relationship because it forced me to grow up, to take responsibility for myself and not put my self-esteem in other people's hands any more. You can't win that way."

Growing up is a process Morissette has accomplished quicker than most. Born in Ottawa, she went into show-business at the age of ten, landing a part in a children's series on cable TV. The money she made financed her first single, and at 14 she signed a publishing contract which, after a self-financed debut

album, led to the release in Canada on the major-league label MCA of *Alanis* (1991) and *Now is the Time* (1992).

The daughter of two teachers, Morissette describes herself as "always an over-achiever". Even while she was undertaking all this acting, writing and recording, she still managed to get A grades at school. At the age of 17 she left home and moved to Toronto. Then, at 19, she took herself off to Los Angeles, where she hooked up with Glen Ballard, who co-wrote *Man in the*

*Mirror* with Michael Jackson. He and Morissette wrote and recorded virtually the whole of *Jagged Little Pill* on a shoestring budget — a creative process which she describes as "very pure, very fast, an almost mystical experience" — before securing a contract with Maverick, the label owned by Madonna.

"She's offered to give me advice, but I haven't taken her up on it," Morissette says. "I want to make my own mistakes and enjoy my own triumphs." She professes to be unaware that *Jagged Little Pill* has outsold Madonna's current album, *Something to Remember*, five to one.

Like Madonna, Morissette

"I was always an over-achiever"

was brought up in the Catholic faith, which she has since renounced. She sings of the experience with typical candour in *Forgiven*: "We all had delusions in our head/We all had our minds made up for us/We had to believe in something/So we did."

She has no time for drugs — "for a control freak, the idea of being so out of control is too frightening" — but has instead become very tuned in to the Californian culture of self-examination. "My religion for a long time became psychological awareness. My Bible was a book on psychology. I used to do a lot of therapy. It became like a drug to me, but the benefits have been invaluable, both to my state of mind and to my ability to write songs that are a genuine expression of my emotions."

And, like any reasonably rounded individual, these emotions comprise more than just anger. But there is still a lot of it about. "My parents were offered five jobs right out of university," she says. "Now you can have several degrees and not get any job."

"And there's a reason why there's a lot of anger in music made by people my age. There's a whole movement towards the truth and, of course, there's going to be anger and frustration and feeling compelled to lash out. Obviously, you have to take responsibility for certain mistakes that you make, but we're only human."

NEW RELEASES: Joan Osborne scores on British debut

**JOAN OSBORNE** *Relish* (Blue Gorilla/Mercury 528 699)

With a voice like honey and lemon, and songs that mix modern rock with elements of blues, soul and hillbilly gospel, Joan Osborne has got it all. The success of her debut British single, *One of Us*, has paved the way for an album that is astonishingly rich in musical detail, spiritual imagery and raw feel.

Naturally, the 33-year-old singer from Kentucky has honed her music over many years, since starting in the blues bars of New York. And much credit is also due to a supporting cast of seasoned songwriting collaborators, including guitarist Eric Bazilian and keyboard player Rob Hyman of the *Hoovers*, plus her producer Rick Chertoff.

But the key to Osborne's appeal lies in her instinctive ability to impose a strong sense of tradition on words and music that have an instant popular appeal. Her unusual, yodelling-like intonation at the beginning of *Pensacola* is descended from the Appalachian style of country-gospel singing. And, at her bluest, as on the slow, dirty chug of *Dracula Moon* or her lightly sketched version of the Sonny Boy Williamson standard *Help Me*, she sounds like Janis Joplin without the whisky bottle.

Two songs in particular stand out from an embarrassment of riches. *Spider Web* tells of a dream in which Ray

A Pelé of the blues

Charles regains his sight, only to find that his wonderful singing voice has deserted him: "No Georgia on my mind no more/I stay in bed with MTV." Constructed from an astonishing lattice-work of percussion and funk guitar rhythms, it is a song that interweaves complex layers of music and meaning, yet produces an immediate effect.

In a very different vein, the next single, *Right Hand Man*, is a glorious, skipped-beat stomp pushed along by shimmering guitar chords, a howling sax solo and the swaggering pay-off line: "Use me up if you think you can."

at a time" — the other his increasingly indiscriminate lust for practically anything in a skirt.

Not the world's most convincing singer, he tends to sketch in the melodies on generic garageband rockers such as *Innocent World* and *Heart is Saved*, as if joining up the dots with a rather uncertain hand. A valiant effort, no doubt, but this is not an album whose appeal is likely to stretch much beyond Pop's diehard fans.

**MARC ALMOND** *Fantastic Star* (Some Bizarre/Mercury 528 699)

EMERGING from a period of personal upheaval, Marc Almond opens his account with his new record company with an album of impressive grandeur and epic scope.

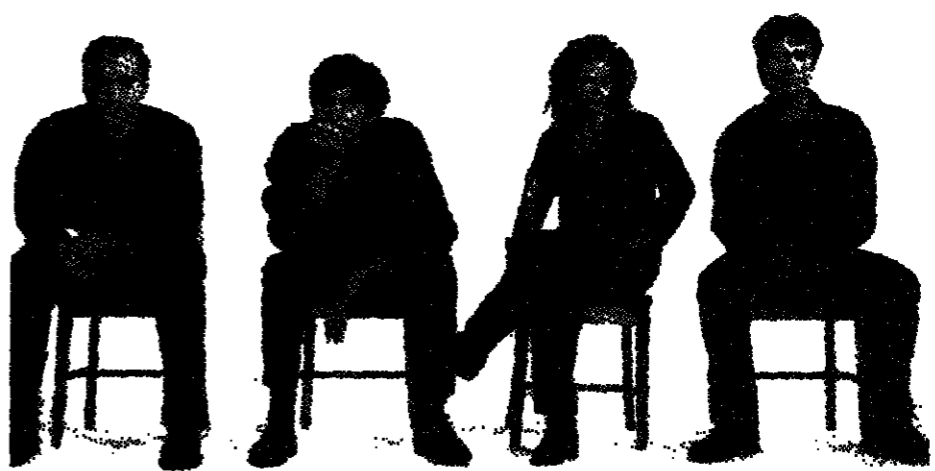
He describes the collection as "a search for glamour and love through obsession, addiction, betrayal and stardom", and these elements are much in evidence on tracks such as *Caged*, *We Need Jealousy* and *Brilliant Creatures*, which marry his fey synth-pop roots with grunter touches of rock'n'roll sleaze.

At the core of the album is a spellbinding song called *The Idol (Parts 1 & 2)*. Written in a pastiche of the style of Gary Glitter, it is a long and thoughtful dissertation on the strange role that tragedy plays in contributing to the romantic lure of pop icons.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Q Magazine



TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *What's the Story* Morning Glory? ..... Oasis (Creation)
  - 2 *Expecting to Fly* ..... Blur (Parlophone)
  - 3 *Bizarre Fruit I & II* ..... M People (Deconstruction)
  - 4 *Jagged Little Pill* ..... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
  - 5 *Don't Stop* ..... Status Quo (Polygram TV)
  - 6 *The Bends* ..... Radiohead (Parlophone)
  - 7 *Different Class* ..... Pulp (Island)
  - 8 *Stanley Road* ..... Paul Weller (Go! Discs)
  - 9 *Definitely Maybe* ..... Oasis (Creation)
  - 10 *Life* ..... Simply Red (East West)
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Sri Lanka cheered by style of victory

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN COLOMBO

TO GET some idea of the scope of this cricket World Cup, imagine the distance from London to St Petersburg...

feat of West Indies did nothing to change the widespread feeling that, of the three host nations, they appear the most likely winners...

It would be wrong to suggest the Sri Lankans feel cut off from the tournament — or "tourney", as newspapers here call it...



unlike those countries, their team have to win the World Cup. Even the grandest optimists are not expecting to win it this time...

He does not feel that the enforced break caused by Australia's refusal to play here has necessarily been a handicap to the side...

"To have a break after a long tour of Australia was quite good for us," he said. "We are confident we can do well but there is nothing more we can do apart from look forward to the next game..."

Islanders were happy yesterday, not just with the six-wicket win over Zimbabwe but the manner in which it was achieved...

How far Sri Lanka depends largely on how well they can support Chaminda Vaas, a left-arm swing bowler of some promise...

Their batting strength hardly needs underlining, and bodes well for a competition that has already seen exciting hitting from Tendulkar, Kirsten and Astle...

هكذا فان الرجل



Zuiderent, still a schoolboy, strokes his way to a half-century for Holland yesterday

Coach seeks assistance to build on Dutch courage

The calls by the Holland coach and captain yesterday for the international and English cricket authorities to encourage the game in their country touched on a sensitive subject...



England to do something similar for Europe. Further down the line, they may want to give them financial help...

The article takes as its premise the point that West Indies is a conglomeration of countries. "There is no such thing as a West Indies in the Olympics, the football World Cup or any other sport..."

Nice try The News, but this will not wash. In picking a cricket team, West Indies draw on a population of just five million, which already gives them a smaller catchment area than any Test team...

Michael Slater, who took runs galore off England last winter, is no longer considered good enough to make the Australia side. Mark Taylor gives the reason that he has not been having the best of seasons in the one-day game...

There comes a threat of hope for England with the suggestion in a Pakistani daily newspaper. The News, that the West Indies team should be disbanded and broken up into island sides.

When the time comes to return the outstanding shots of the championship, the drive played with spectacular effect by Wynne Richards in the third set against Thomson on Wednesday night will rank high...

He fired and hit the bulls-eye. Thomson's bowls flew to all points of the compass, leaving Richards with four shots. Richards lost the set and eventually the match...

JENNIFER Capriati made further progress in her long-awaited comeback yesterday by defeating Barbara Schett, of Austria, 7-6, 6-1 in the second round of the WTA tournament in Essen...

DEBORAH COMPAGNONI, the Olympic champion, completed a remarkable comeback from injury by winning the gold medal in the women's giant slalom at the Alpine skiing world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain, yesterday...

NICK Pearce, ranked No 204 in the world, completed a surprise 5-2 victory over Dave Harold, the No 13 seed, to reach the semi-finals of the Sweater Shop International Open at Swindon yesterday...

ENGLAND'S women won their group, scored their third victory and moved within one success of qualifying for the Uber Cup finals with a 4-1 triumph against Canada in Prague yesterday...

THE efforts of Andre Agassi, right, to return to the top of the world rankings suffered a setback in Memphis on Wednesday when he lost 6-2, 6-4 in the first round to Luke Jensen...

Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League, yesterday accused the Australian Rugby League (ARL) of overlooking the Super League World Nines in Fiji...

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WORLD CUP DETAILS

Table with columns: Group, P, W, T, L, NR, Pts. Rows for South Africa, New Zealand, England, Pakistan, Australia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (15pm), Last snow.

FOR THE RECORD

Multiple sports fixtures and results including Badminton, Basketball, Football, Rugby Union, and Golf.

SKIPPING

Table with columns: Name, Score, Event.

HOCKEY

Table with columns: Match, Score.

ICE HOCKEY

Table with columns: Team, Score.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Table with columns: Match, Score.

RUGBY UNION

Table with columns: Match, Score.

THE TIMES

RACING section with race details and results.

CRICKET

Cricket section with match reports and statistics.

Car insurance advertisement for Road Atlas.

Large advertisement for 'Champions' featuring a person's image.







